Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-111
Friday
8 June 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-111 8 June 1990

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Minisummit To Be Held in Libya 11 June *[KUNA]* 1
Paper on 'Lukewarm' Egyptian-Sudanese Relations *[Beirut AL-SAFIR 4 Jun]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Top Officials Criticize U.S. Dialogue Stance 1
Qaddumi Interviewed *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 3 Jun]* 2
U.S. Stand Arouses 'Disgust' *[KUNA]* 4
Commentary on Dialogue *[Baghdad VOP]* 5
Reactions, Views on Sea Operation Scored 5
Investigation Begun *[Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI 5 Jun]* 5
Operation Called 'New Approach' *[London AL-MAJALLAH 12 Jun]* 7
Al-Hasan on PLO Moves, Israeli Objectives *[Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI 5 Jun]* 8
PLO Official on Reestablishment of Eastern Front *[KUNA]* 11
PLO Executive Committee Concludes Meetings *[Algiers VOP]* 11
Praises Arab Summit *[Baghdad VOP]* 11
PLO Paper Aims for 'Legitimacy' in Lebanon *[London AL SHARQ AL-AWSAT 5 Jun]* 12

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

PRC Defense Minister's Visit Continues 15
Meets Mubarak, Comments *[MENA]* 15
Abu-Talib Praises PRC Ties *[MENA]* 15
Final Talks Held *[MENA]* 15
Cooperation Discussed *[MENA]* 15
Government, Qatar Issue Joint Communique *[MENA]* 16
Qatari Heir Apparent Departs *[MENA]* 17

Sudan

Cuban Captives Expected in Khartoum 6 June *[SUNA]* 17
Cubans Handed Over *[SUNA]* 17

Western Sahara

UN Identification Commission Meets on Referendum *[Rabat TV]* 18
Committee Ends Work *[Rabat TV]* 18

ISRAEL

Reportage on Formation of Shamir's New Government 19
Shamir To Announce Ministers 10 Jun *[Jerusalem TV]* 19
Degel Hatora Backs Out *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Announcement of Government Postponed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19

Government Guidelines Signed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Shamir Announcement, News Conference *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Shamir Informs Herzog *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Future of Coalition Uncertain *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Accord Not Signed by All Partners *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Labor: U.S. Should Continue PLO Dialogue *[THE JERUSALEM POST 7 Jun]* 21

LEBANON

Al-Musawi on Conditions for Hostages' Release *[KUNA]* 23
More on Al-Musawi Conditions *[VOL]* 23
Israeli Forces Reportedly on 'Maximum Alert' *[Beirut Radio]* 23
Gunfire Exchanges Violate Eastern Area Truce *[Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon]* 23
LF Reportedly Release Six 'Awn Supporters *[VOL]* 23
Sa'adah Takes Over Telecommunications Ministry *[Beirut Radio]* 23

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Diplomats Say Najibullah To Visit India 'Soon' *[AFP]* 24
Loya Jirga Sends Message to UN Secretary *[BAKHTAR]* 24
PDPA Publishes 'Watan Party' Draft Program *[Kabul Radio]* 25
Balkh Security Operation Detailed 5 June *[Kabul Radio]* 25
Kabul Rocket Attack Kills One, Injures Five *[Kabul Radio]* 25
Mujahidin Capture Town Military Posts in Herat *[Islamabad Radio]* 25
Spokesman Criticizes Pakistan Plan To Down Planes *[BAKHTAR]* 25

India

India Launches 'Fresh Initiative' for Peace *[Delhi Radio]* 26
Nepalese Premier Begins Three-Day State Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 26
Five 'Intruders' Killed Near Border in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 26
Kashmiri Militants Kill Relative of Home Minister *[Delhi Radio]* 26

Iran

UK Hostages' Release Linked to Rushdie Expulsion *[Tehran International]* 27
Velayati on Iraq, Soviet Border, U.S. Claims *[IRNA]* 27
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Holds News Conference 6 Jun *[Tehran TV]* 27
Mohtashemi on West's Anti-Muslim Policy *[KEYHAN 27 May]* 36
*Replacement of Tehran Mayor Denied *[KEYHAN 21 Apr]* 37
*Construction of 60-Foot Floating Dock Begins *[KEYHAN 22 Apr]* 37
*Mohtaj Named Commander of Naval Forces *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 19 Apr]* 37
*Need To Collect Firearms From People Stressed *[KEYHAN 16 Apr]* 37
*Many Reportedly Wounded, Arrested in Skirmishes *[London KEYHAN 17 May]* 38
*Iran, EC Begin Direct Talks in Dublin 17 May *[London KEYHAN 17 May]* 39

Nepal

Bhattarai Interviewed on Upcoming Indian Visit *[AFP]* 40
Premier Bhattarai Leaves for New Delhi 8 Jun *[AFP]* 40

Pakistan

Government Proposes Talks With India *[AFP]* 41
Spokesman: Indian Proposals Omit Kashmir Issue *[Islamabad Radio]* 41
Minister Presents Budget for Next Fiscal Year *[Islamabad Radio]* 41
Delhi Notes Defense Expenditure for Next Year 42
Bhutto Comments on Budget; Rules Out Martial Law *[Islamabad Radio]* 42

Sri Lanka

LTTE, Army Reportedly Clash; 6 Rebels Injured *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Delhi Cites Premadasa on Desire To Improve Ties 43

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Minisummit To Be Held in Libya 11 June

LD0606092990 Kuwait KUNA in English 0705 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 6 (KUNA)—A mini-Arab summit will be held in Tripoli on Monday [11 June] on the sideline of Libyan celebrations for the evacuation of Italian forces, said Arab diplomatic sources. Daily "AL-ANBA'" quoted the sources as saying that the leaders of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen, Palestine and Algeria will take part in the mini-summit.

According to the sources, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has extended invitations to the Arab leaders during his meeting with them in Baghdad late last month. They said that representatives from all Arab countries as well as a number of friendly countries will participate in the Libyan celebrations, which is scheduled to start on Monday.

Daily AL-ANBA' said that Libya is trying to hold a meeting at the ministerial level between Syria and Iraq. It added that Col. al-Qadhdhafi has already tabled his proposal to Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn.

The same sources predicted that Libya would join the Arab Cooperation Council which groups Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and Yemen, noting that contacts had been made in Baghdad on the sideline of the emergency Arab summit.

Paper on 'Lukewarm' Egyptian-Sudanese Relations

NC0706082690 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 4 Jun 90 p8

[Report by Amin Radwan from Cairo]

[Text] Egyptian and Sudanese sources in Cairo and Khartoum have confirmed that Egyptian-Sudanese relations have recently become lukewarm because the Sudanese Government has started to train elements belonging to Islamic groups in Egypt in the use of arms.

The sources said that the number of those trained has recently reached 430 and is expected to rise to around 1,000 by the end of this year.

According to diplomatic reports, 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman is in Khartoum, although the Sudanese Government knows that he is being tried in absentia before Egypt's Higher State Security Court on charges of inciting Islamic groups in al-Fayyum governorate to resist the authorities. 'Abd-al-Rahman was a defendant in the case involving the al-Jihad organization, which assassinated Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat in 1981.

The sources added that the Egyptian Government demanded clarification from the Sudanese Government about the training and protection of extremist Egyptian elements. In an official memorandum, the Sudanese Government denied that Egyptian Islamic groups in Sudan have any role in disturbing Egyptian security. It also denied any intention to use these groups against any neighboring African country, including Egypt. The Sudanese memorandum added that the government has not even thought of using these groups in its war against the rebels in the South, stressing that Egyptian and Sudanese security are closely linked. The memorandum did not touch on 'Abd-al-Rahman's presence in Khartoum or on his statements directed against the Egyptian regime. It also did not deny the Sudanese National Islamic Front's [NIF] sponsorship of extremist Egyptian groups.

Egyptian diplomatic reports said that the NIF and Egyptian Islamic elements had jointly planned to stage violent acts inside Egyptian territory.

The sources said that another reason for the lukewarm relations between Egypt and Sudan was the execution of a number of Sudanese officers following the abortive coup attempt. Khartoum accused Iraq and the United States of being behind that coup attempt.

Sources close to the NIF leadership asserted that the Sudanese Government is not satisfied with the level of political and military relations between Egypt and Sudan and is accusing Cairo of not exerting enough efforts in its mediation between Khartoum and the southern rebels.

The sources revealed that Sudan's military council decided on 17 May to send a message from its chairman General 'Umar al-Bashir to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak listing the Sudanese criticisms and laying down a new basis for promoting bilateral relations. The sources added that Cairo has not yet replied to the message.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources noted that Iraq has informed Cairo of its concern about developing Sudanese-Iranian relations. They added that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is seeking to restore confidence between Cairo and Khartoum and that these efforts were the substance of a second message from al-Bashir to Mubarak before the Baghdad summit.

Palestinian Affairs

Top Officials Criticize U.S. Dialogue Stance

Qaddumi on Dialogue

LD0706212690 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], the foreign minister of Palestine, has stated that the PLO will not cancel the Palestinian peace initiative if the U.S. Administration cuts off its dialogue with the organization.

He further says in a news interview that the PLO does not consider dialogue with the United States as one of the constant factors in its daily line of struggle.

Qaddumi Interviewed

JN0406165490 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic
3 Jun 90 p 19

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, identified as "Palestine foreign minister," by Raja Talab; date and place not given]

[Text] [Talab] What is your assessment of the Baghdad summit conference?

[Qaddumi] The Arab summit conference in Baghdad came at the right time—the time when the wolves were gathering to attack the Arab nation. For, Israel is making threats, pursuing its occupation, and committing the ugliest crimes against our Palestinian people and humanity at large, in an era characterized by international changes, whose results some view as positive and others as negative, and at a time when peace efforts have almost come to halt. Despite the enthusiasm of many international parties for the Palestinian initiative, we think this initiative has lost its vigor, because of the United States' dishonesty toward world public opinion; or, let us say because of putting pressures on European countries and others to diminish their role in the peace process. Our unwavering belief remains that the United States is a biased country. It has continuously declared its bias toward Israel, and it cannot abandon this bias. Therefore, our relationship with the United States must be different from what we had earlier. The Baghdad conference, moreover, defined the features of the near future, and outlined the character of our dealings with other countries, especially those countries facilitating emigration and providing support for Jewish emigrants. An Arab strategy, in addition, has to be drawn up. Agreement has been reached on a meeting of Arab foreign and economy ministers to draft the major outlines of this strategy. Thus, we see that the conference has invigorated Arab solidarity, established the perspective of joint Arab action, reinforced confidence among Arab states and the ability of these countries to ward off any foreign aggression, eliminated many fears concerning Arab-Arab relations, and started to draw an outline for building the Arab nations' own capabilities. Moreover, the conference reminded these countries of their growing capabilities and the world's need to deal with Arab countries. Arab countries must take interests into consideration, especially since they are facing growing economic blocs, the intensifying problem of debt, and other problems. Economics and finance, therefore, play an important role in addition to politics. Moreover, a weapon of deterrence must be created and reinforced in order to face Israel with a fait accompli; that is, recognition of our national rights. Otherwise—this otherwise has many implications.

[Talab] What is it that distinguishes the Baghdad summit from other Arab summits?

[Qaddumi] The Baghdad summit was characterized by seriousness, responsibility, and a deep sense of this responsibility. It is not just a matter of a resolution or a draft resolution put up for discussion, and then approved by everybody. This time, when a resolution was approved, all parties felt it was binding and that there was someone demanding that they implement it. The conference was also permeated with a feeling of closeness and coexistence. Everybody sensed the danger, the need to counter this danger, and the need to build up the nation's self-reliance because minor entities cannot defend themselves. These entities will be in a very precarious position in the future. They must have a unified Arab force to defend pan-Arab security; therefore, the rubric of the conference was pan-Arab security.

[Talab] Did the summit pass any secret resolutions?

[Qaddumi] The talks contained many details that were reported neither in the resolutions nor in the final statement. These include many issues that were put up for discussion and remain under discussion. When circumstances mature appropriately, the dialogues that took place in the Arab summit on certain issues will become future resolutions.

[Talab] The closing statement said that relations between Arab states and world countries will be based on the latter's approach to Jewish immigration. Has the summit devised a mechanism to ensure that, and have the criteria been defined?

[Qaddumi] The Arab League has set up a committee, and Arab foreign and economy ministers are due to convene to consider two key issues—Jewish emigration, and economic blocs and their impact on the Arabs and Arab international relations now and in the future.

[Talab] Has a date been set for meetings of the committee and the foreign ministers?

[Qaddumi] In two months.

[Talab] The language used in the U.S. letter to the summit was clear, sharp, and uncomplimentary. The summit conference held the United States principally responsible for protecting Israel's crimes. Did the summit work out definite guidelines for dealing with the United States?

[Qaddumi] The summit did not use sharp language, but painted a realistic picture of the facts on the ground to impress on the United States that, if it maintains its pro-Israel bias, the Arabs will have to take their own interests into account, and that Washington must expect resistance. This is because the United States' biased position does not help the cause of a comprehensive, just peace in the region. We had to take a very clear stand. We outlined the real U.S. position, which is against the aspirations and ambitions of our people and the Arab nation at large. If the United States wants Arab friendship, it will have to change its policies. This time, we are not engaged in mere rhetoric. We will follow through with action in the manner of prevailing practice in international relations. The United States has supplied more than enough support to Israel and its aggressive

and bestial policies. How much longer will the United States underestimate the Arab nation, which has the power to compromise its interests in the region?

[Talab] What kind of Arab action will be taken against American arrogance?

[Qaddumi] This should be worked out by the Arab foreign ministers at their next meeting. The decisions will be implemented, however, and all are convinced the summit resolutions will be followed up.

[Talab] The U.S. veto of the UN Security Council resolution calling for the dispatch of observers to the occupied Arab land was a slap to the Arab summit resolutions. What will the Arab response be?

[Qaddumi] The veto means that the United States tops the list of nations sponsoring terror. The United States encourages Israel's aggressive policies and provides cover for its behavior. This means we must reciprocate. We have other ways than diplomatic action at the United Nations or the Security council. Let us make a point of causing the United States a headache, and let us keep up Arab protests, as these are important. Let us also initiate contacts with other nations to expose this behavior in order to isolate the United States internationally and expose its true aggressive nature.

[Talab] Will the Arab group at the United Nations ask for another Security Council session to consider sending observers to the occupied territory?

[Qaddumi] We plan to do this shortly.

[Talab] In your contacts with the Soviet Union, have you been informed that the Middle East question will be discussed during the Bush-Gorbachev summit in Washington?

[Qaddumi] The Soviet Union is a friendly state, but this does not mean it ignores its interests with respect to the other superpower, the United States. Regarding the Middle East question, there was a long discussion with the Soviet leadership about the issue of Soviet emigrants when a high-level Palestinian delegation visited Moscow before the Arab summit and met with Shevardnadze. We hope our Soviet friends will put this question on the agenda, although Washington has rejected it. In fact, the Soviet Union plans to raise the issue, as well as the peace process and the need to establish clearly the bases for the political process in the Middle East.

[Talab] The United States has officially asked the PLO to denounce the Jerusalem seaborne operation and expel Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front, from the PLO Executive Committee; otherwise, it will halt the dialogue with the PLO. Will you discuss this request?

[Qaddumi] We would like the United States, as a superpower, to deal with Israel in the same way it deals with us, so that one could say it was unbiased. But, since it is biased, we feel the U.S. request is a deviation from proper political behavior. In any event, we are in no way required to answer the U.S. request. We had hoped the United States would fulfill its international duty by sending a UN Security Council committee to the occupied territories to investigate the inhuman crimes committed by Israel. However, by adopting the Israeli position, it undermines its own credibility and drives people, no matter how small they may be, into ignoring its requests.

[Talab] Do you view the dialogue with the United States as so important that it could become a form of extortion against you?

[Qaddumi] The United States has opened an on and off dialogue with the PLO, which has not discussed substantive issues. The dialogue seems then to have passed into a time-wasting phase. And, when Washington adopted Shamir's plan, the dialogue lost all substance whatsoever. What is going on now is only the illusion of Palestinian-U.S. relations, and not a dialogue in the full sense of the word. We tell the Americans frankly that we do not trust what you are doing because you are pushing the Middle East toward a new war.

[Talab] This will lead to questioning Washington's seriousness in achieving a political settlement in the Middle East.

[Qaddumi] The United States is not serious at all when it comes to peace. It is now necessary to exercise Arab and West European pressure to make it change its policy and end its bias toward Israel, otherwise it will continue its policy that mocks world opinion, the international community, and international organizations.

[Talab] Do you think the Labor Party's coming to power in Israel would help the peace process, especially since this party is close to Washington's understanding of a Middle East s[illegible]nt?

[Qaddumi] This is nothing but game playing. Peres and the Labor Party are finished for good. I spoke to Swedish Foreign Minister Andersson about this and told him the same thing, which has now begun to emerge clearly. At a news conference in Sweden, I said that Peres cannot succeed in any political elections, because he is losing credibility after saying one thing and doing another, whereas the Likud is clear in its policy and extremism. It, therefore, receives the support of most Israelis. The issue of Labor and Likud, and which of the two is in power, is considered by Palestinian diplomacy as a kind of joke that we should not waste our time on.

[Talab] Do you not see in the U.S. request to the PLO following the al-Quds seaborne operation a flagrant encroachment on the Palestinian people's right to choose their means of struggle against occupation?

[Qaddumi] What do you expect from an enemy like the United States? Is it going to send us love letters? It is continuously sending us letters of complaint and denunciation and using the veto. U.S. history is replete with

hostile actions against our people. Confidence in it is lost. It cannot change this policy unless there is a serious Arab stand against it. International charters state that every people is entitled to struggle against occupation, colonialism, and racism with all available means in order to regain their usurped rights. And we are, in fact, implementing the provisions of these charters.

[Talab] It has been reported that the Syrian leadership requested the postponement of a visit to Damascus by Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] following his efforts to hold the Baghdad summit. How true is this, and how far have efforts to normalize relations between you and Syria come?

[Qaddumi] Very regrettably, the issue of relations with Syria has become a pointless story. Talk about it seems to lack any seriousness. We and the Syrian brothers, and both brothers and friends, have sought for a long time to normalize relations, but there seem to be many issues that are not easy to resolve except through joint dialogue and in the presence of other parties. The differences are on the Arab-Israeli conflict, what is happening in Lebanon, the way we view the international conference and who will attend it and what we can achieve from it, and the political methods each party uses to deal with the Middle East crisis. Frankly speaking, all these are points of disagreement. A visit cannot settle this. Overall Arab relations should be reflected in the Palestinian and Syrian stands in order to reach the desired goal, which is normalizing Syrian-Palestinian relations. Further understanding of our concept of the future, of our Arab relationship, and the issue of the Arab-Zionist conflict will solve this and provide a chance for building strong relations.

[Talab] Is there any Arab mediation between Syria and Iraq?

[Qaddumi] There are too many mediation efforts; some are serious, some are not, and some are meant only to avoid blame. The situation, therefore, is entirely mixed up.

[Talab] How do you personally think mediation should be conducted, and what is the best method?

[Qaddumi] Iraq and Syria are frontline states. They must sit down together despite all their differences; they should not be absent from this meeting or that. Nor should our efforts lack seriousness. There are differences in the approach to the Arab- Israeli conflict and the Lebanese question. Is it not surprising that the Lebanese issue, for instance, has remained unresolved for 16 years? We think Syria can play an important role in resolving the crisis among the nationalist forces and in finding a way out of the impasse. Palestinian-Syrian relations should also be normalized on a sound and serious basis. And, since Syria is calling for "strategic parity", it must take into consideration the need to rectify its relations with Iraq, which possesses strategic arms. Syria must also retain good relations with Jordan and help as much as it can to support Jordan's stability in the face of hostile Israeli schemes. Pressure must also be brought to bear on the flexible policy produced by the Camp David accords—the policy that tried, step by step, to influence some other Arab capitals but which found a strong barrier against at the Baghdad summit.

[Talab] The Arab summit's final statement spoke of financial, political, and moral support for the intifadah, without being specific. Can you explain?

[Qaddumi] No new basis for supporting the intifadah were laid down. The Algiers summit resolutions will continue to be the basis of this support. The issue was discussed in depth by the summit because of our pressing need to support our kinfolk inside the occupied territories, whose unendurable suffering is witnessed every day by the whole world.

All the Arab brothers are convinced of the need to provide assistance, and we will discuss the details with each individual country soon.

[Talab] The PLO is engaged in serious mediation between Iraq and Iran with a view to reaching a full and comprehensive peace agreement. How far has this mediation gone, and has it borne any fruit?

[Qaddumi] I firmly believe that the peace plan announced by President Saddam Husayn was a serious and sound beginning. Our efforts are auxiliary and their purpose is to bring the two sides together to discuss all issues related to the war, its solution, and the establishment of fraternal relations between the two countries in the future. Our efforts are continuing so that the brothers in Iraq can meet with Iranian officials to free the prisoners of war and settle all outstanding issues.

[Talab] Are reports of the presence of Palestinian detainees in Egyptian jails true?

[Qaddumi] Yes, there are Palestinian detainees in Egyptian jails. This issue, however, cannot be discussed through newspapers but rather through fraternal dialogue with the Egyptian brothers. Dialogue is now underway to release these detainees.

U.S. Stand Arouses 'Disgust'

LD0608093490 Kuwait KUNA in English 0834 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 6 (KUNA)—A senior Palestinian official lashed at the United States for vetoing the Security Council resolution to send a fact-finding mission to the occupied territories. Member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, in an interview with daily AL WATAN, published here today, described the American veto as a contempt to the Arab's capabilities and resolutions. He added that this veto is a response to the recent Baghdad Arab summit resolutions.

The Palestinian official said that the American administration should be confront [as received] with the Arab

strength, noting that the Arab hesitation is the most dangerous attitude that threatens the Arabs. He pointed out that the Arabs have all the capabilities to confront the Israeli and American aggressions.

Commenting on the American threats to stop dialogue with the PLO, he said this threat "arouses our disgust", adding that the U.S. talks to the PLO and does not negotiate with them. What is called dialogue is turning in an empty circle and there is no meaning in threatening to stop it, 'Abd Rabbuh said.

The sea raid on the Palestinian shores is not terrorism, he said, adding America's bias to Israel to protect the Zionist entity's bloody practices is terrorism.

Regarding the Soviet Jews emigration to occupied Palestine, 'Abd Rabbuh said the Arabs should call for an international conference to discuss the emigration problem as it poses danger on the regional and international security and violates Palestinian and Arab human rights. He noted that if those emigrants were given the choice to choose their destination they will never have chosen Israel, and that is proved by statistical numbers of the past years.

Commentary on Dialogue

JN0706204990 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1909 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, perhaps it has become noticeably evident that the U.S. Administration's persistence in shirking its international and moral duties toward the Middle East peace process has reached a climax. This is being manifested through the continued U.S. coverup and protection of the Israeli occupation's crimes against our Palestinian people. Moreover, this reveals the U.S. Administration's hidden engagement in confrontation and conflict against our people and Arab nation. In particular, we are referring to the political level in the international arena. The U.S. Administration's hostile stands against our people and Arab nation place the Middle East on the brink of a new cycle of tension, violence, and a serious escalation of the prospect of war and aggression.

Within this context, the threats by some circles in the U.S. Administration to sever the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue constitutes an indication of the growing possibility of an explosion in the Middle East that will completely destroy the peace process and any peace prospects. Needless to say, the threat to sever the dialogue is an act of extortion. However, this behavior is doomed to failure, because what is being threatened is not marketable merchandise. The U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, which has remained inanimate over 20 months, has so far not developed into a positive, real move toward the long road to peace. In other words, those circles in the U.S. Administration should have threatened something that deserves to be worried about. So far, the dialogue has given us nothing and has offered our people no real prospects. We in the PLO have been eager to maintain this dialogue, and continue to be—we are not seeking to sever it. This is because we eagerly seek to develop this dialogue by convincing the United States to bear its international and moral responsibility toward the Middle East peace process and toward our Palestinian people's national inalienable rights. And because we, as a principle, believe in a dialogue that is capable of bringing viewpoints closer and reaching a common denominator, we will not close this door, and have no intention of doing so. However, we also firmly believe that our eagerness to continue the U.S.- Palestinian dialogue and develop it to enable it to assume a major role in the move toward a just, comprehensive peace is not subject to extortion—and will never be so.

Nevertheless, these threats by some circles in the U.S. Administration mean nothing to our people except an exposed attempt to provide more pretexts and justifications for the continuation of the ugly, criminal Israeli policy against our heroic Palestinian people.

A final word: The U.S. Administration's persistence in its disregard for international bodies and the will of the international community and its obstruction of the real peace efforts places the United States smack in the face of the entire international community. It is the only state that uses the veto and other means against the international community's endeavor to establish a just peace in the Middle East. It goes without saying that these U.S. policies constitute a flagrant and dangerous challenge to the recent Arab Baghdad summit resolutions. This prompts us to reiterate the call for our Arab brothers to rise to the level of responsibility by abiding by the Baghdad summit resolutions and translating them into a unified Arab action that puts an end to U.S. arrogance and confronts its aggressive stands.

Reactions, Views on Sea Operation Scored

Investigation Begun

JN0706075890 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 5 Jun 90 p 3

[By 'Abd-al-Karim Abu-al-Nasr]

[Text] Paris—AL-QABAS has learned from high-level Palestinian sources that the Palestinian leadership has secretly formed a special investigation committee to reveal the intricacies, secrets, and objectives of the fedayeen sea operation carried out by the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] led by Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] near Tel Aviv and that the Palestinian leadership will acquaint the U.S. Administration with the results of the investigation when it is concluded. Meanwhile, these sources disclosed to AL-QABAS that the PLO instructed all Palestinian officials "to open fire" at the United States and its Middle East policy. The sources also affirmed to AL-QABAS that the Palestinian leadership officially informed responsible Arab and West European governments that it is the one that set

conditions to the Bush administration to continue the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. Among the most prominent conditions is the U.S. agreement to ensure "an international protection" for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, who are facing brutal and repressive Israeli practices.

According to information AL-QABAS received from high-level and well-informed Palestinian sources, the Palestinian leadership is in fact dealing through a combination of flexibility and firmness with the new "crisis" that has erupted with the United States as well as with the U.S. threats to end the dialogue with the PLO as a result of the PLF operation.

Flexibility is represented by the secret formation of a special Palestinian investigation committee; firmness is represented by a large-scale Palestinian diplomatic, political, and media campaign against the U.S. Middle East policy as well as by setting Palestinian "conditions" to continue the dialogue with the United States.

AL-QABAS learned that the Palestinian leadership has secretly formed a special investigation committee under the supervision of the PLO's "National Security Department" to study and reveal the intricacies, secrets, and objectives of the fedayeen sea operation carried out by the PLF, led by Abu al-'Abbas. The Palestinian investigation committee began its work immediately. It is now collecting information and details on this sea operation and the real objectives sought by those who took part in it and who planned it.

AL-QABAS also learned that Arab and West European governments that are friendly to the PLO "advised" the Palestinian officials to form an investigation committee "as a goodwill sign" to show that the Palestinian leadership continues to honor the pledges it made at the end of 1988 and resulted in the commencement of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue on the basis of these pledges, including the pledge "to renounce terrorism" and not to carry out any "terrorist acts or activities." The Palestinian investigation committee seeks to accomplish its task as soon as possible and to present a detailed report on this sea operation to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. The competent Palestinian sides also intend to acquaint the U.S. Administration with "the most prominent results" of the investigation while withholding the secret security information that is not in the PLO's interest to reveal.

A prominent Palestinian source told AL-QABAS: "The Palestinian investigation committee does not seek to punish anybody or to take any disciplinary action against the elements who carried out the sea operation. The basic task of the committee is to reveal the intricacies of this operation which we, as Palestinian officials, refuse to consider a terrorist operation."

The high-level Palestinian sources noted to AL-QABAS that "the initial indications and signs" that the committee was able to collect, reveal the following basic information:

1. The main objective of the operation was not "to kill" Israeli civilians or "to hold" a number as hostages; the main objective was to attack Israeli military installations and positions north and south of Tel Aviv. The Palestinian investigators recorded accurate information and events affirming this, such as "the testimony" of an Israeli officer that was published in an Israeli newspaper, which says that the Israeli officer "was astonished and surprised" because the Palestinian fedayeen did not attack "any Israeli civilian" although they had enough time and could have done so.

2. There were no written or oral instructions from the PLO leadership to Abu al-'Abbas to carry out this operation. And Abu al-'Abbas did not inform the Palestinian leadership in advance of this operation.

3. The Abu al-'Abbas operation—in terms of nature and objectives—does not come under the U.S.-Palestinian agreement reached at the end of 1988 and on which the Reagan administration agreed to open dialogue with the PLO.

The Palestinian investigation committee seeks to prepare a complete report to show that there are no "serious pretexts or evidence" that would make the Bush administration decide to halt, suspend, or end the dialogue with the PLO.

AL-QABAS asked a prominent U.S. diplomat who has interest in this issue if the Bush administration is aware of the existence of a Palestinian committee. The U.S. diplomat said: "The U.S. Administration was informed that the Palestinian officials are now conducting investigations into the sea operation carried out by Abu al-'Abbas' men. We are awaiting the results of these Palestinian investigations and the evidence and information they reveal. However, the Bush administration is not only relying on the Palestinian investigations or the Israeli information on this sea operation; it is conducting an in-depth and detailed investigation in which all specialized U.S. organs are taking part to ascertain the facts of what took place, who was really behind this operation, and whether or not Yasir 'Arafat or the PLO leadership are directly or indirectly involved."

However, against this Palestinian "flexibility" there is a Palestinian "firmness" in dealing with the various U.S. stands and threats targeted at the PLO. Within this context, informed Palestinian sources disclosed to AL-QABAS that the PLO leadership instructed the Palestinian officials in their various positions "to open fire at the United States and its Middle East policy." The instructions include the following basic information:

1. The entire world—except the United States—stands at the side of the Palestinian people, their cause, and the PLO.

2. The entire world—except the United States—supported the idea of ensuring international protection for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. The recent voting at the UN Security Council on the draft resolution calling for dispatching a fact- finding mission

from the Security Council to the occupied Arab territory showed that all Security Council members, including France and Britain, supported the draft resolution, except the United States which aborted the resolution by using the veto.
3. The United States stands against the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their national rights. It only accepts Israel's "protection" [of the Palestinians] but objects to any practical measures and steps to protect the Palestinian people. Thus, it wants "to weaken and exhaust" the Palestinians before "facilitating" their arrival at the negotiating table.
4. The PLO is the side that is "disappointed" vis-a-vis the dialogue with the United States, so the United States is not the only side that is "disappointed" with this.
5. The PLO no longer wants a dialogue with the United States in accordance with the U.S.-Israeli conditions; the PLO wants a dialogue with the United States according to its own conditions that are in harmony with legitimate international institutions and the resolutions of these institutions.

In addition to these instructions and guidelines, AL-QABAS learned that the Palestinian leadership has, during the past two days, informed Arab and West European states and parties of the following basic issues:
1. The PLO leadership wants and is ready to continue the dialogue with the United States; however, it seeks a genuine dialogue that is different in terms of content, form, and objectives from the dialogue that has been going on since December 1988.
2. The PLO leadership has its own conditions for continuing the dialogue with the United States. The following are among the most prominent conditions: The Bush administration should adopt frank stands condemning the brutal and repressive Israeli practices against the Palestinians; the U.S. Administration should agree on ensuring international protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territory; and the Bush administration should work toward embarking on a real, comprehensive, and integral peace process so that any Palestinian-Israeli dialogue will be part of the comprehensive settlement that should be reached within the framework of an international peace conference.
3. Halting or suspending the U.S.-Israeli dialogue will not make the PLO leadership relinquish the Palestinian peace initiative or the Palestinian peaceful approaches. Peace to the PLO is a strategic objective from which it will not retreat even if the Bush administration decides to halt or suspend its dialogue with the PLO.

Operation Called 'New Approach'

PM0706151590 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 12 Jun 90 p 38

[Interview with Palestine Liberation Front Secretary General Muhammad 'Abbas, alias Abu al-'Abbas, by Salih Qallab; place, date not given]

[Text] [Qallab] Why did you carry out that operation at that particular time? Did the timing have anything to do with the Arab summit or the Security Council meeting which discussed the bloody Sunday massacre in occupied Palestine?

['Abbas] Actually the motive which made us bring forward the operation was the massacre committed by the Zionists against the sons of our Palestinian people, which claimed scores and hundreds of innocent lives. Therefore I confirm that we took neither the summit nor the UN Security Council agenda into account when we carried out the operation.

What we wanted to do was respond to the Zionists' crimes against the sons of our Palestinian people and to try to deliver a message to our people on the inside that the Palestinian revolution's fighters stand by and support them, regardless of the distance involved.

[Qallab] Was it not possible to stop the operation when you sensed that it might affect the course of Security Council proceedings?

['Abbas] For many years we have been used to the fact that the United States acts purely as a veto on the Palestinian situation. So our conviction is that we can only change this situation by changing the factors on the ground of reality. We know that the real and fixed U.S. position is backing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people in all circumstances and preventing the Arab nation from making any progress. And it does not need any justifications. And here I wonder: If the operation had not taken place, would the U.S. position have been any different? And did the United States ever take any objective stance on the Palestinian question?

[Qallab] The Americans and the Israelis say that the civilians who were on the beaches on vacation were the target of the operation. So what was the operation's major plan?

['Abbas] The operation was carried out exactly according to the plan drawn up for it: to storm the tourist resort allocated for senior Israeli Army officers north of Ashqelon and to attack a military installation north of Herzliyya, namely an Israeli Coast Guard camp. And what actually happened was that these two positions were stormed. And what refutes the Israeli spokesman's allegations is that the Israeli statements themselves mentioned that the civilians were 30 meters away from our fighters, who were well equipped. Yet, despite this, they did not fire a single bullet at those civilians but engaged in combat with the military forces and aimed their weapons at the Israeli officers at the resort.

[Qallab] There is an accusation against Libya and a claim that the operation was launched from its territory. Is this true?

['Abbas] Israel says that the action was beyond the capabilities and resources of the Palestine Liberation Front—a clear indication designed to persuade the world that the Palestinians are not capable of carrying out such missions. This is why it is pushing Libya's and Iraq's

names for that purpose as well as for another objective, namely to create justifications for expanding the circle of its aggression to prevent the Arab states from exercising their right to develop themselves scientifically and technologically.

[Qallab] Was any mistake made during the course of the operation, thus causing the attacking boats to reach the Palestinian beaches in the daylight?

[Abbas] It was carefully planned for the operation to reach its target in the broad daylight: first, in order to tell the enemy that we are capable of confronting him in the broad daylight: second, because darkness in its interests, not in ours, because they possess advanced surveillance equipment. And also because they are more alert then. Whereas we with our modest resources would be unable to see them in order to avoid their ambushes.

[Qallab] You are a PLO faction, and some people say that by that operation you have violated the PLO commitment to stopping external operations.

[Abbas] It was not an external operation. Anyhow, we are are members of the PLO and are sincerely committed to the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions. And the Executive Committee did not recognize and will not recognize the Zionist existence on Palestinian territory until Palestinian rights are recognized. Nor has the Executive Committee dropped the armed struggle. What it has dropped are external operations aimed against civilians and innocent people who have nothing to do with the conflict. So in that regard, and as an Executive Committee member, I consider that by what I did I was implementing PNC resolutions and the principles on which the Palestinian people rely, namely armed struggle, without causing any conflict between armed struggle and the PLO program.

[Qallab] That operation was the second since the Achille Lauro operation. Is there any coordination between you and the PLO in that regard?

[Abbas] It is known that the PLO constitutes a broad national front comprising a group of Palestinian forces exercising armed struggle in that regard. And to preserve these factors we carry out our military missions in accordance with our front's military command without informing the PLO or any of its factions of our military intentions. This is because this matter concerns us alone.

[Qallab] The Americans set three conditions for the PLO and demanded their implementation, otherwise they would suspend the dialogue with it. Have you heard of these conditions?

[Abbas] Yes, I have heard about them, and they are old conditions. Anyhow, after these conditions were announced brother Abu-'Ammar made statements which represent a sufficient and satisfactory reply. And if my departure from the PLO Executive Committee were likely to really lead to a U.S. recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate right to independence, freedom, and sovereignty over their territory, then I would have achieved the aim which I vowed to myself to achieve, and I would be willing to leave the Executive Committee.

[Qallab] We have noticed that for some time you have not attended Executive Committee meetings. Is there a specific position, and why this boycott?

[Abbas] In fact I do attend Executive Committee meetings, but intermittently, specifically for security reasons.

[Qallab] The Americans have threatened to break the dialogue with the PLO. What is your opinion of that dialogue?

[Abbas] I am not against that dialogue. And I say that the PLO is entitled—indeed, it is its duty—to open channels of dialogue will all forces in this world. But if the Americans want to break the dialogue, let them do so. What have we benefited from that dialogue over two years?

If the Palestinian people ask me to resign, I will certainly resign, because I am elected by the Palestinian people's representatives and I can only be discharged by the sons of the Palestinian people.

[Qallab] Do you not believe that what was spent on that operation could have realized operations hundreds of times better from within the occupied territories?

[Abbas] Indeed the operation was costly. But it did cost Israel a lot. It has cost it a tourist season which brings in $5 billion a year. It has cost it the reexamination of all its security organs and naval boats which failed. This is in addition to the loss of lives among its officers and men. That operation is the start of a new approach in confronting the Zionist enemy, and the days are coming, whether or not some people agree.

Al-Hasan on PLO Moves, Israeli Objectives

[Unnumbered] Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 5 Jun 90 p 9

[First of unspecified number of installments of interviews with Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, in Kuwait—date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-QABAS: What is your view of the Palestinian peace initiative in the wake of the Arab summit conference, the U.S. memo addressed to this summit, and the Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] operation?

Al-Hasan: [passage omitted] The intifadah is the outcome of the success of the revolution in transferring action from outside the country to inside. Thus, while the basic body of the revolution remains inside, its mind and resources, which provide it with the necessary capabilities, remains outside. Had we failed in this respect, the Palestinian revolution would have been terminated, because the revolution's inability to be transferred

means its failure. The intifadah is the beginning of the strategic parity with the enemy in the Palestinian territories. I believe the 1982 war is no less important than the intifadah. However, because this war was not fit for international investment, it became into a magnificent military action, without producing any political result. In contrast, because the intifadah arrived a stage of fertile international detente, it had to continue politically. Drawing a new map of the region will not happen without the assent of the local neighboring countries, or without the assent of the world on this new political map.

As for severing political and administrative ties between Jordan and the West Bank, the Palestinian state will be established when two parties—the local party represented by the Arabs, and the international party represented by the United States and Europe—endorse this establishment. The Arab side has endorsed this issue when King Husayn declared the disengagement because King Husayn is authorized by the Arabs in this respect. The conflict now is over obtaining the international endorsement. This will never happen or be considered without engagement because up to now, the international parties have rejected this. The intifadah is the establishment of the revolutionary authority on solid ground, not in the sense of having complete control, but in the sense that if the occupation is eliminated, then we have obtained the international legitimacy to establish the state, which, I believe, should not be born if not united with Jordan. If it is born without unity with Jordan, then it will not be allowed to unite with any state later because of the security theory.

Based on the above, the conflict has continued since the beginning of the intifadah in order to obtain the international pressure needed to bring about withdrawal; because the stones of the intifadah will not bring about withdrawal. This can happen by strong international pressure. As long as the Arab situation develops toward unity for the sake of confrontation with the Israelis without waging wars, the possibility that international pressure might bring about the Israeli withdrawal will accelerate. Revolutions can bear fruit in the place where their gun barrels, their vehicles, and the feet of their soldiers reach. Therefore, we have reached the West Bank and the [Gaza] Strip. We cannot talk about a place where the intifadah has not reached. If the intifadah stops now, Israel will definitely not withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel today is facing a great dilemma, primarily because of the intifadah's economic cost on Israel—about $1.5 billion annually. If the losses reach $2.5 billion, then this will be an economic disaster to the Israelis. Israel used to make $482 million as a trade surplus with the West Bank. Now, Israel pays $1.5 billion. The Israeli situation is insecure despite its apparent possession of total security.

Since it is in a fix right now, Israel is thinking of resolving its problem by moving outward. There is a theory which says that Israel makes a move outside its borders every 10 years. If we were to explain this theory in more accurate terms, we would say that the accumulating domestic problems that build up in Israel every 10 years place it at an impasse. To release the pressure created by these problems, Israel makes a move outside its borders. Hence, Israel is currently making preparations to give vent to this pressure outside its territory. Even as we speak, the Israeli army is being trained in the south [of Israel] on an operation involving crossing the River Jordan to a vacant area between al-Karak and Amman to prevent the Iraqi Army from reaching the Jordanian heartland if it were to intervene to participate in repulsing the aggression. Israel's choice of this area is dictated by two reasons. The first reason concerns the fact that this area is vacant. Hence, Israel can evacuate Palestinian Arabs to this area during the attack. Second, should the Iraqi Army intervene, Israel would be able to prevent it from reaching Jordan's heartland. Thus, the confrontation with the Iraqi Army would not take place on the Jordan River, but in an open area suitable for a tank war to be fought in the presence of superior Israeli aircraft. Hence, our basic concern has recently been to prevent Israel from making moves outside its borders to resolve its problem outside the occupied territories, and to maintain Israel's isolation in order to prevent it from securing massive Western support. For if the West lends it massive and unswerving support, Israel would be ready to withstand a protracted war similar to the one it fought in Beirut, where the war continued for 87 days. Had there been a real international pressure, the 87-day siege would not have taken place. This is also one of the factors which we failed to take into account in 1982. That is because we did not expect the Soviets to keep silent all this time. [passage omitted]

AL-QABAS: Israel would seek to mobilize the West's support if the invasion [of Jordan] were to take place. What are the objectives that Israel would be able to achieve by crossing the River Jordan?

Al-Hasan: The first Israeli objective behind crossing the River Jordan would be to prevent future negotiations about a withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza, and turn them instead to tackling the issue of a withdrawal from the East Bank—and consequently to establish what Sharon terms an alternative homeland. According to the alternative homeland notion, Israel envisages the partitioning of Jordan rather than giving Jordan to the Palestinians, which is totally rejected.

AL-QABAS: Would the PLO accept such a scheme if these are Israel's plans?

Al-Hasan: Of course not. There is no opportunity better than the one provided by the present circumstances for exploiting the situation in Jordan. But because we are no longer politically immature as we were 25 years ago, our paramount objective right now is to preserve Jordan, because anyone who creates trouble in Jordan—which is vulnerable to the fomenting of trouble—is only serving Sharon's scheme. [passage omitted]

AL-QABAS: At the beginning, you spoke about a Palestinian attempt to escalate the situation. Is there a Palestinian strategy for escalation, and is the Wednesday operation carried out by Abu al-'Abbas part of this strategy and an attempt to prevent Israel from making a move outside its borders?

Al-Hasan: Of course we have decided to escalate the intifadah.

AL-QABAS: Including military operations?

Al-Hasan: The intifadah, in itself, constitutes a military escalation. If you review events over the past few months, you will notice an increase in human losses in the occupied territories. This is caused by the escalation of the confrontation. When three or four are martyred daily, this is different from the martyrdom of three or four per week. However, we would like to tell the U.S. Administration and the world at large that we will not let the intifadah carry out confrontation alone inside the territories, because if we leave the intifadah to carry out the confrontation alone, it will exhaust itself. There are limits to everything. Therefore, the importance of the Arab summit, in our opinion, is that it has set up this dam that keeps the Israeli power besieged internally. Israeli power will then erode if it, too, does not achieve a solution.

When the PLO issued its famous declaration stating that it is against terrorism—and this declaration was denounced by many parties—we followed up with another statement asserting that our renunciation of terrorism does not cover military operations against military targets. The PLO has every right to carry out military operations against Israeli military targets, irrespective of where the operation is carried out. This is documented in the minutes between us and the Americans and during our meetings in Tunis. Operations took place from south Lebanon more than once. When these operations were being assessed, it used to be said that since the operation consisted of a confrontation with a military force, it was not a terrorist operation. When brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said at his recent meeting with the press in Baghdad that the results of any operation determine whether the operation is a terrorist operation or not, he wanted to say that any military ooperation that leads to confrontation between military men is not a terrorist operation.

It is true that 95 percent of the military forces are under the direct control of Abu-'Ammar, the commander in chief, but there are other forces in the PLO which, while committed to the general course of action, are not a part of these forces.

AL-QABAS: Do you mean independent forces?

Al-Hasan: Yes. This is the way the PLO was structured, involving the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and. [sentence as published] This also means that these factions are not totally independent forces with the right to act against the PLO's wishes. This is the existing structure and reality. However, every faction must commit itself to the general policy. Therefore, when we assess every operation, we ask ourselves the following question: Was the operation directed against military or nonmilitary targets?

AL-QABAS: What can you give the Americans right now?

Al-Hasan: We believe that we must seize, not beg from the United States. Anybody who deludes himself into believing that he can obtain anything at all from the United States through flattery or begging knows nothing about U.S. society or about the way decisions are made there. The current crisis plaguing U.S.-Palestinian ties does not lie in the nature of the continuing dialogue between us. The outstanding problems exclusively concern the U.S. Administration. There will be congressional elections at the end of the year. Consequently, members of Congress, half of whom are up for reelection, will begin to look to the Zionist lobby for support. Shamir himself is waiting. He has been procrastinating and prevaricating, waiting for this moment to come so that he can return to his cocoon and obtain one more year to end the intifadah. If he fails to form a new cabinet, he will undoubtedly call for elections. And then there will be no new government before next February. Regrettably, when Baker left for Moscow to prepare for the Washington summit, he told the Soviets there was no need to discuss the Middle East conflict right now, arguing that this conflict should be discussed when Israel has a government. Middle Eastern issues were not discussed at all in Moscow, in contrast with what happened before the second Washington summit of 1987. At that time, Shevardnadze asked that the Middle East conflict be on the agenda. But Shultz responded by saying: Let us address the important issues. At that time, only seven minutes were devoted to discussing the Middle East conflict. Two weeks after this, the intifadah broke out. Then, Shultz got on his plane and came to discuss the Middle East conflict. At present, we the Palestinians believe there is a political vacuum. The question is, what will fill this vacuum? Shall we fill it with resignation and fatalism, or use the time creating the instruments of action needed for confrontation? These instruments of action are winning Europe over to our side, creating an Arab front with the minimum level of unity to confront any future Israeli expansion, and escalating the intifadah in the occupied territories.

We are now working along these lines because the United States will not change its position unless Israel asks it to help it find a solution. This happened in Geneva. When we were in Geneva, the United States, from behind the scenes, proposed to set up a committee of France, Canada, Ethiopia, and the [UN] secretary general's representative. Everybody agreed to this. It was also agreed that the U.S. representative would meet the next day with the Israeli representative, Netanyahu. When Netanyahu rejected this, the talks in Geneva ended and the meetings were moved to New York. Therefore, we have

no hope at all that the United States will apply any effective pressure on Israel. The question now is how can we force the United States to apply pressure on Israel? This can be done by exacerbating the internal Israeli dilemma and creating a favorable international climate of opinion against the Israeli position. This, as I said, involves the three lines of approach that are being attempted now.

If Israel crosses the River Jordan, a disaster will befall the Arab nation. However, it may be of great benefit to the Arabs if we know how to take advantage of it. If we are prepared for the confrontation, it will be a disaster for Israel; but, if we are not prepared, it will, undoubtedly, be a disaster for us.

AL-QABAS: If Israel crosses over to Jordan, will the PLO abandon its current policy and return, seriously, to military action?

Al-Hasan: We believe that a sound policy cannot be changed by events. Now, there is international understanding and international detente. What does international detente mean? Certain countries will assume a more prominent position, others will lose some of their influence. It is like switching lights on and off. In 1948 and after the Yalta Agreement, our lights were switched off. Now, look at what is happening in Africa. There are coups and problems every day in certain states. The establishment of a Palestinian state in confederation with Jordan is, in our opinion, a major strategic strike against Zionism. Our task in the coming phase is to establish this state and draft an Arab plan to absorb [isti'ab] the Israeli presence in the region, so that the next 15 years will not be years of renaissance for them, but years of renaissance for us and of siege for them, that is if we agree on this objective, to which I can see no other realistic alternative. [passage omitted]

AL-QABAS: Israel's ambition is to transform Jordan into an alternative homeland for the Palestinians, is it not?

Al-Hasan: The Israelis are liars and the Palestinians do not want that to happen. We have proposed our confederation plan to King Husayn. Confederation means there will be an authority for the Jordanians to the east of the river [Jordan] with a Jordanian-Palestinian interlocking [tadakhul], and an authority for the Palestinians to the west of the River with a Jordanian-Palestinian interlocking. As Arabs, we must understand that unity will not be achieved through inter-Arab battles, or by conspiring against each other. Unity means friendly economic development that leads, in time, toward the reality of unity.

PLO Official on Reestablishment of Eastern Front

LD0606105890 Kuwait KUNA in English 0845 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 6 (KUNA)—Hani al-Hasan the political advisor of Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat Wednesday [6 June] warned against a new Israeli aggression on Jordan and called for halting Israel from crossing the Jordanian River. Speaking with the daily AL-QABAS, the Palestinian official said that "if the Israelis were able to cross the Jordanian River, then speaking about the West Bank and Gaza Strip will end and discussion will involve the Israeli withdrawal from Jordan."

He added, in the second part of the interview published here today that this issue was discused at the recent emergency Arab summit held in Baghdad asserting that it was one of the main reasons why the Arab leaders were convinced to attend the summit.

However, Al-Hasan noted that the situation would be different due to the vast amount of weapons trained youths in Jordan, and asserted that the crossing of the Jordanian River "would not be an easy take [as received] since the battle will determine the fate of the rule".

The PLO official said that there are endeavours to reestablish the eastern front grouping Jordan, syria, Iraq and the PLO.

Egypt's support to the convocation of an Arab Defense Council is a forthcoming exam, and our duty is to develop the Egyptian stance".

In conclusion the Palestinian official said that he is expected to visit Syria this month to discuss restoring and normalizing relations between them.

PLO Executive Committee Concludes Meetings

LD0706212190 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee has concluded its extraordinary session of meetings in Baghdad under the chairmanship of the brother president and leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine.

The radio correspondent in the Iraqi capital stressed that the PLO Executive Committee had reviewed the results of the recent extraordinary Arab summit, and assessed the latest developments affecting the Arab and international scenes.

Praises Arab Summit

JN0706200590 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1834 GMT 7 Jun 90

["Text" of statement issued by PLO Executive Committee "at the conclusion of its meetings" in Baghdad on 7 June]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee concluded its three-day meetings today, 7 June 1990. The PLO Executive Committee discussed the results of the Arab summit meetings in Baghdad. It expressed its great appreciation for the historic resolutions issued by the summit, particularly with regard to confronting the

challenges facing pan-Arab security, reiterating and reinforcing Arab support for the blessed intifadah of our people, and reasserting Arab commitment to backing the Palestinian peace initiative and efforts to convene an international conference—the appropriate framework for achieving a just and comprehensive solution.

The PLO Executive Committee also discussed the Arab summit resolutions regarding the issue of threats, including Jewish emigration. It valued these resolutions, affirming the importance of mobilizing Arab political, economic, and information resources to stop the emigration and to deal with countries and international forces in light of their stands on Arab rights, foremost being our Palestinian people's national rights in commitment to the Arab League Charter, the Collective Arab Defense Pact, and Arab economic cooperation.

The PLO Executive Committee also discussed, with great appreciation, the resolutions on reinforcing pan-Arab security and ways to confront the challenges facing our Arab nation, or our states, including the threats targeted against sisterly Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Libya; the effort to achieve economic integration; the periodical convening of the Arab summit within the framework of the earnest dealing with the international changes to protect the interests and rights of the Arab nation.

The PLO Executive Committee expressed its pride in the major pan- Arab role assumed by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to contribute to the success of the summit, reinforce Arab solidarity, and underline support for our people's intifadah and the defense of Arab rights.

The PLO Executive Committee highly valued President Saddam Husayn's initiative to increase financial support to the intifadah since this is proof of sisterly Iraq's policy of placing the issue of the Palestinian people and support for their struggle at the top of its priorities.

The PLO Executive Committee discussed the situation inside the occupied Palestinian territory and ways of entrenching the steadfastness of our militant people against terrorism, repression, and massacres perpetrated by the occupation forces. The Executive Committee expressed its appreciation for the stand adopted by the national personalities in Jerusalem as an expression of their full commitment to the sole representation of the Palestinians under the PLO—the sole, legitimate representative of our people.

The PLO Executive Committee affirmed that escalating the intifadah, reinforcing its democratic nature, developing comprehensive popular participation in the intifadah, and strengthening national unity constitute the most important factors on which all the occupation plots and crimes will crash.

The committee considered ways of consolidating steadfastness, supporting national establishments and bodies, and developing the energies of all our people wherever they are—inside or outside the occupied land. The committee also stressed the importance of mobilizing the resources of our Arab nation in the cause of the blessed intifadah.

The committee has expressed appreciation for the recent stand of President Gorbachev on Jewish emirgration, and underscored the need to develop all-round Arab-Soviet cooperation and to stem the danger of immigration on the interests of the Arabs and the peace process in the Middle East.

The committee condemned the use of the American veto, the seventh in a year, against the draft resolution calling for an investigation of Israeli crimes against our Palestinian people—a resolution supported by all the other UN Security Council members and approved by the PLO after it had been amended by the British.

The committee studied the means whereby the United Nations could assume its responsibilities in full and work to see an end to Israeli crimes, terror, and oppression—an approach that requires a combination of all international efforts in the cause of peace to secure international protection for our people as a step on the road to enabling our people to exercise their right to self-determination, repatriation, and national independence.

The committee also released a press statement emphasizing that such stands constitute a blow to peace efforts and a cover for Israel, which continues to commit crimes and massacres against our people and to spurn all peace initiatives and efforts. This U.S. collusion with Israel has led Israel into a dead end, where it has been stuck for over two years.

The committee stresses the need for sisterly Arab countries and all international forces supportive of the cause of peace to assume their responsibilities for preventing a deterioration of the regional situation and blocking Israeli plans to set off a regional explosion and sabotage global peace and security.

PLO Paper Aims for 'Legitimacy' in Lebanon

PM0706094390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jun 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Sources in Beirut Talk About Protocol To Reorganize Palestinian Presence in Lebanon"]

[Text] Some political circles in Beirut are talking about what they term a Palestinian paper, containing proposals for reorganizing the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. An informed source who revealed the content of that paper said that it could be a plan being leaked out to probe Lebanese circles' reactions to it, in preparation for presenting it officially and then negotiating with the Lebanese Government on the basis of it.

The informed source says that an authoritative Palestinian source in Beirut did not deny the paper-plan but did try to play down its importance, without ruling out a

Palestinian desire to reactivate Palestinian-Lebanese relations in order to determine their status and future. Especially as the PLO believes it is entitled to return with its diplomatic representation to Beirut, like the other embassies and Arab and international diplomatic missions, now that there is relative calm and west Beirut has begun to received the ambassadors and diplomatic missions.

The source quoted the authoritative Palestinian source as saying that the PLO, like the other Arab states, has no objection to the Lebanese section represented by President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the Salim al-Huss government, or to the al-Ta'if agreement, which outlines a solution to the Lebanese problem. The authoritative source also expressed his appreciation of the high Arab tripartite committee, which continues to follow up the problem with a view to arriving at the right conclusion.

The source added that the authoritative source believes there is a need for the quarters concerned, or the Lebanese Government it makes no difference—to open the door to the discussion of Palestinian-Lebanese relations, especially as there are major problems which need to be tackled in order to draw up solutions to them. Restoring the Palestinian diplomatic mission, improving the services provided for the Palestinians in Lebanon, and improving conditions in their camps, especially in Beirut and the southern suburb, are not the least of these problems.

The source said that the PLO, according to the authoritative Palestinian source, certainly does not wish to interfere in Lebanon's affairs but sees that the process of working for a settlement to the Lebanese problem is bound to take account of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon as well. And while the mediation which Fatah tried to conduct in the eastern areas, and which PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat encouraged, was designed to ease conditions in these areas, it also believed that that would be in the interests of Lebanon as a whole. Any real internal stability in Lebanon would be in the interests of Lebanon and the Arabs as a whole, hence also of the Palestinians, who are present in Lebanon.

The authoritative source had emphasized that the PLO did not and does not see any need to raise Palestinian-Lebanese relations in the organizations or at an Arab conference. Because it does not want to appear to be hampering or obstructing in any way a solution to the Lebanese problem.

That is what Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat emphasized to the tripartite committee ministers when he met with them in Tunis. Even raising these relations in the wrong way would harm them and turn them into political commodity subject to barter and maneuvering.

Therefore, the authoritative source had said, these relations must be programmed in terms of what specifically is required by the Palestinians and what is possible for the Lebanese and the Arabs, so that any discussion would be beneficial and productive. And that depends on Lebanon first. If an Arab role is needed, it is limited. And the quarters concerned may play a role, but without ignoring the role of Syria, which is present in Lebanon.

The informed source went on to reveal the content of the Palestinian paper. He says that it is a draft protocol which organizes the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and reemphasizes its legitimacy, especially as the Israeli invasion almost shook that legitimacy. This is in the knowledge that the legitimacy of the Palestinian presence, according to a statement in the Palestinian paper's introduction, is based on Arab and international resolutions adopted since the early years of the evacuation from Palestine. And it means certainly not a permanent presence, but a temporary presence pending a solution to the Middle East crisis as a whole, specifically a solution to the Palestinian problem by initially establishing a Palestinian authority in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

What is important, the source says, is that a Lebanon-Arab protocol may be needed at this stage to organize the Palestinian presence and deal with the following matters according to the papers circulating in some political circles:

First, there must be Arab agreement to protect the Palestinian presence as a whole, particularly in Lebanon, within the framework of Arab agreements, taking account of the Lebanese situation.

And, although there is no severe situation threatening the Palestinian presence, as was the case during the days of the camps siege, the drawing up of general security measures for the Palestinians in the camps appears to be essential.

Second, the Palestinian camps in Lebanon must therefore be considered to reflect that presence. Thus these camps and their residents should be protected. And this should involve the following:
1—no return to any siege or internal aggression against them. And their reinforcement must be permitted in the face of any Israeli aggression aginst them.
2—organized exit from and entry to them in a manner that would guarantee their residents' freedom and their human right to free movement.
3—the provision of general national security for the camps based on general security formulas endorsed in Lebanon on the basis of the legitimate Lebanese forces' role. And their internal security should be left to the Palestinians themselves.
4—the development of unified camp committees to become the correct form for representing their residents on any committees set up to remedy conditions in the camps.
5—permission for and help in rebuilding the camps—and speedily—especially with regard to those badly damaged as a result of the sinister camps war.

Third, the higher Lebanese-Palestinian committee under the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, which in the past thoroughly discussed and dealt with all Palestinian affairs in

Lebanon, must be revived. And all Palestinian matters, problems, and affairs should be determined after reexamining the committee's composition, taking account of new developments on the scene.

Fourth, the subject of the Cairo agreement signed by the Lebanese Government and the PLO in 1969, which organizes the Palestinian presence in the south, must be discussed. As it was abolished by one party, namely the Lebanese Government, there is now a need to discuss that abolition within an Arab framework, especially as the agreement was signed in Cairo within an Arab framework. The abolition by one side is illogical, and this can be negotiated, especially as there is now a Lebanese authority. It should be left to that authority to decide when it is appropriate to discuss that subject.

Fifth, the PLO office, closed following the Israeli incursion into Beirut in 1982, must be reopened. The opening of that office, as in many Arab capitals, is an Arab decision which recognizes the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

Sixth, the Palestinians' economic, living, and educational conditions must be reexamined. That can be done by conferring with the UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency], whose mission is to deal with all these conditions, by allowing it to move effectively and by providing the necessary protection for its offices.

The informed source went on to quote the authoritative Palestinian source as saying that the present Lebanese situation might not allow a discussion of most points in the proposed protocol. But some preparatory Palestinian-Lebanese contacts are essential, especially if they coincide with an inclination from the parties concerned to discuss the protocol's points.

The authoritative Palestinian source added that the PLO understands well the stage which Palestinian action has reached in Lebanon and emphasizes that it is being conducted within the framework of the general orientations aimed at achieving a settlement in the region on the basis of the proposed initiatives, including U.S. Secretary of State Baker's initiative. And the Baghdad summit's importance is reflected in the fact that it clearly indicates that Palestinian action is taking account of the Arab situation as a whole, because it finds in it its strength and backing.

Thus Palestinian action needs the situation in Lebanon to recover its health fully, because that is a strength for the Arab situation and hence a help for the Palestinians and their cause.

The authoritative source did not rule out the existence of some threats which still surround the Palestinians in Lebanon, especially in south Lebanon, where the Israeli occupation moves on, sometimes directly and most of the time via its agents, committing an aggression here or a sabotage there. Israeli aircraft have increased their aggressive flights over the camps. And Palestinian, Lebanese, and Arab reactions to the bloody Sunday massacre in occupied Palestine have increased too.

But the Palestinians have no intention of escalating the situation via south Lebanon. They know that points of weakness lie in such an escalation. Thus the fear is that Israel itself may turn to that escalation in order to hit an identified weak point in south Lebanon. It is hoped that international and regional balances will be able to check the aggressive Israeli escalation, especially as the Hebrew state is alert for any incident to cover the Jewish emigration and settlement in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and also to drown the continuing Palestinian intifadah.

The authoritative Palestinian source said finally: There is Palestinian, Arab, and Lebanese awareness of all this. And there is no escalation anywhere except within the context of a unified Arab position. So the Palestinians in Lebanon have a firm desire to organize the Palestinian situation within the framework of Lebanon's interests and the interests of the Arabs as a whole.

Egypt

PRC Defense Minister's Visit Continues

Meets Mubarak, Comments

NC0506111190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received General Qin Jiwei, PRC state councillor and national defense minister, and the accompanying delegation at the presidential office this morning. The meeting was attended by Gen. Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production.

The Chinese defense minister said his meeting with President Mubarak was held in an atmosphere of brotherly and friendly feelings and that President Mubarak is an old and close friend of the Chinese people who already had visited China four times.

Replying to a question on military cooperation between Egypt and the PRC, the Chinese official said that there is fruitful bilateral cooperation in all fields and not in the military field only because the two countries are friendly and therefore we can always find new scopes for developing our cooperation.

Gen. Abu-Talib noted the good military cooperation between Egypt and China, particularly in the field of choosing modern advanced technology while taking into consideration the economic aspects, the availability of manpower in both countries, and the need to provide job opportunities, and of working to repair and extend the life span of old Eastern-made weapons. He added: We are deepening this cooperation through the exchange of delegations, expertise, visits, and training in order to get acquainted with all the armed forces systems in both countries.

He stressed that the field of modern technology does not mean non-traditional weapons at all as there are thousands of applications for modern technology in the traditional fields whose integration would greatly enhance the power and capability of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

Concluding his statement, Gen. Abu-Talib noted that the Chinese defense minister has stressed that his country supports President Mubarak's call for eliminating all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

Abu-Talib Praises PRC Ties

NC0406210590 Cairo MENA in English 2045 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, June 4 (MENA)—Commander-in-Chief and Minister of Defence and Military Production General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib praised tonight Egyptian-Chinese relations and China's support of Egypt and the Arab nation.

Gen. Abu-Talib said China has always stood strongly and firmly by the peace-loving countries, among which comes foremost. [sentence as received]

This came in a speech by Abu-Talib at a dinner banquet given by him tonight in honour of the visiting Chinese minister of defence and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of their visit to Egypt.

"We shall never forget China's support of our air and naval forces, as well as complete cooperation in all military fields," Gen. Abu-Talib said at the dinner banquet.

"We always find support from China to the Arab nation's issues, especially at the international organizations and fora," he added.

Attending the dinner banquet on the Egyptian side were Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu-Shinaf, chief-of-staff, and other senior military officials. On the Chinese side were members of the accompanying delegation and senior Chinese military officials.

Final Talks Held

NC0606105690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—The final round of military talks between Egypt and China was held this morning. The Egyptian side was led by General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, while the Chinese side was led by Gen. Qin Jiwei, PRC state councillor and national defense minister. [passage omitted]

The talks dealt with the modernization of some types of Eastern-made weapons systems including ways to extend their life spans, incorporate modern technology, and jointly manufacture spare parts. Discussions also dealt with the joint action to develop radar systems and electronic equipment, joint production of buoys ['a'imat], coordination of expertise and training exchange, and attendance of the major exercises carried out by the two countries' Armed Forces.

Cooperation Discussed

NC0406124390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA)—General Qin Jiwei, PRC state councillor and national defense minister, today voiced his country's firm support to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's proposal to turn the Middle East into a region that is free from mass destruction weapons.

Speaking to reporters following a session of military talks between Egypt and the PRC, Qin Jiwei praised cooperation between the two countries in all fields and said that the two countries will reach bright and broad horizons of cooperation in the future.

For his part, Gen. Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, said that the talks centered on bilateral cooperation. Reiterating Egypt's call for the removal of mass destruction weapons from the region, Abu-Talib noted that the application of new technology does not have to involve the development of such weapons and that Egypt and the PRC can cooperate in the production of conventional weapons.

Abu-Talib said that the two sides discussed ways of renovating and modernizing older types of weapons to bring them up to date with current technology.

The talks also involved a discussion of ways to adapt modern technology to Egypt's economic abilities, particularly with a view to the availability of manpower.

Gen. Abu-Talib accepted an invitation by the PRC defense minister to visit the PRC next year.

Government, Qatar Issue Joint Communique

NC0506115990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Jun 90

["Text" of Egyptian-Qatari Joint Communique issued at the conclusion of the visit to Egypt by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, on 5 Jun]

[Text] Proceding from the strong relations between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the State of Qatar, within the context of the well-established ties between the two countries, and in response to an invitation by Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, paid an official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt from 3 to 5 Jun 1990.

His Highness the Qatari heir apparent was accorded an official and popular reception that reflects the deep-rooted historic ties between the two fraternal countries and the sincere feelings of amity and appreciation held by the president, government, and people of Egypt. Egypt's President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received His Highness Shaykh Hamd Bin-Khalifah Al Thani and listened to an oral message from His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, on the fraternal relations existing between the two countries. President Mubarak asked him to convey a message of amity to his highness the amir.

President Mubarak and His Highness Shaykh Hmad Bin-Khalifah reviewed all the Arab and Islamic affairs and the course of the joint cooperation and the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries, whose foundations were laid down by President Mubarak and Qatar's Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani.

In an atmosphere of full understanding and an eagerness to consolidate inter-Arab solidarity in general and the close bilateral relations in particular, the Qatari heir apparent and defense minister held official talks with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. The talks centered on Arab and international issues of mutual interest, ways to expand and strengthen bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, trade, cultural, information, transportation, and labor fields, and the need to activate the private sector's role in investment and development. The Qatari side to the talks included their excellencies the ministers of information and culture, foreign affairs, communications and transporation. Present during the talks from the Egyptian side were the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, and the ministers of defense, transport and communications, information, tourism and civil aviation, economy and foreign trade, manpower and training, culture, the chairman of the Higher Council for Youth and Sports, the Executive Council chairman of the Investment Authority, the chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, the assistant foreign minister, and the ambassadors of the two countries.

The talks showed an agreement in views on the topics under discussion. The two sides expressed interest to continue work in all directions for the good of the two fraternal countries and peoples and the Arab nation at large. The two sides paid tribute to the positive results of the emergency Arab summit that was held in Baghdad between 28 and 30 May and the new horizons for Arab solidarity opened by this summit.

The two countries condemned the settlement of the Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories and expressed their continued support for the intifadah of the struggling Palestinian people in the occupied territories, which has entered its third year. They appealed to the international community to support the intifadah and to demand that Israel stop its oppression and violence, which run counter to the principles of human rights and stand in violation of the international norms and documents.

The two sides appreciated the wise policy pursued by the PLO, which has earned it important international diplomatic credit. They reiterated their support for the peace efforts to find a just, comprehensive, and durable settlement that could enable the fraternal Palestinian people to attain their legitimate right to self-determination and their right to set up their independent state. The two sides expressed their support for convening an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO, on an equal footing.

The Qatari side lauded the wise policy pursued by the Arab Republic of Egypt under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak toward the Palestinian issue in particular and the Arab causes in general. Qatar also praised Egypt's concliatory initiatives at the Arab, Islamic, and African levels and its role in clearing the atmosphere and resolving the disputes by peacefully.

While reviewing the ties of Arab cooperation, the two sides expressed their deep satisfaction with the level reached by this cooperation in various fields. They praised the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Cooperation Council, and the Arab Maghreb Union as groupings that are working for the benefit of their peoples and in the public Arab interest within the framework of the Arab League, inspired by its charter. The two countries called for expanding cooperation between these groupings and strengthening coordination between them so as to raise Arab action to the level aspired to by the Arab peoples.

The Egyptian and Qatari sides called for a quick end to the existing state of no peace, no war between Iraq and Iran and stressed the need to establish a just and lasting peace between them as this would have positive effects on the Gulf region which is strategically important for the whole world. In this respect, the two sides reiterated their support for UN efforts to resume negotiations between the two countries on the basis of Security Council Resolution 598 which was accepted by both sides as a good basis for reaching the just and lasting settlement between them.

The two sides welcomed the several Iraqi initiatives and the spirit in the messages recently exchanged between the Iraqi and Iranian leadership which heralded imminent efforts to establish peace between the two countries in the interest of their two peoples and the other peoples of the region.

The two sides also supported the need for a quick restoration of peace to Lebanon within the framework of the national accord document. They reiterated their support for Lebanese legitimacy and for the higher Arab tripartite committee's efforts to put an end to fighting and violence between the Lebanese and to move toward reconstruction and building in this fraternal country.

Regarding international relations, the two sides welcomed the prevailing signs of detente in East-West relations. They expressed their hope that this would stabilize peace in the entire world and expand international economic cooperation in promoting mutual interests and supporting the development programs in the developing countries.

Regarding bilateral relations, the two sides reviewed with satisfaction the constant growth of cooperation in the various economic, commercial, investment, cultural, information, educational, labor, transport, communications, and other important fields, particularly following the visit of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, to Egypt in January 1990 which resulted in the signing of important agreements to establish the higher joint committee for promoting bilateral cooperation in various fields, an agreement on economic and technical cooperation and the encouragement of investments and trade exchange, an information agreement, and then an agreement on education cooperation.

Two agreements, one on cooperation in the cultural field and the other on cooperation in the field of air transport, were signed during the visit. They add new bricks to the strong edifice of fraternal cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the State of Qatar.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani expressed his profound thanks and gratitude for the warm welcome and reception accorded him and his delegatioon during his visit to the sisterly Arab Republic of Egypt. His Highness invited Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Defense Minister General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib to visit Qatar. They accepted it and promised to do so as soon as possible.

Qatari Heir Apparent Departs

NC0506112390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, and members of his delegation left Cairo this morning winding up a three-day official visit to Egypt. During the visit, the Qatari official held important talks with President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. The talks dealt with the most important issues of cooperation and coordination between the two countries. Arab, regional, and international issues were also touched on during the talks. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Cuban Captives Expected in Khartoum 6 June

EA0406213090 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Jun (SUNA)—A group of Cuban captives, released recently by Oromo Liberation Front in response to Sudan's mediation, is due here next Wednesday [6 June], newspapers reported today.

The reports said the Cuban captives would be extradited [as received] to the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum next Thursday in the presence of representatives of Foreign Ministry security and pressment. The captives will depart for London, papers said.

Oromo Liberation Front, battling the Ethiopian Government, captured the captives near Asosa town, Ethiopia, last January.

Cubans Handed Over

EA0706175190 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Jun (SUNA)—The handover of the Cuban POW's to the American ambassador has been completed. They are (Badro Gilacio Marin) and his wife, (Yolanda Hernandez). They were handed over to the U.S. ambassador here this morning. They will be handed

over to the Cuban Government as soon as possible, through the American Government.

The POW's had been held by the Oromo Liberation Front since last February with four others, some of whom were released last April in response to Sudanese Government mediation, and that of other organizations and [words indistinct]. The POW's arrived in Khartoum yesterday to attend the reception ceremony and their departure.

Western Sahara

UN Identification Commission Meets on Referendum

LD0506231290 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Excerpts] The proceedings of the UN Technical Identification Commission on the referendum to be held in the Saharan provinces were expected to start yesterday. However, as a result of the obstacles raised by the mercenaries as usual in a bid to undermine the UN efforts to arrange the referendum in the Sahara, these proceedings only started today. [passage omitted]

The confusion of the elements of the Polisario delegation, which has become clear, is irrefutable proof that the mercenaries avoid the referendum which they know very well is a referendum which affirms the Moroccan-ness of the Sahara. What can be clearly noted is that the delegation of mercenaries operates a very strict watch on the members of the delegation which they claim represents the dignitaries and tribes of the Sahara, because they do not let them out of their sight either at the Palace of Nations or at the hotel where the two delegations are staying, so that no contact can take place between the two sides, and so that the rift continues.

The same confusion has become clear in the ranks of the cadres of the mercenaries' delegation as their statements to the media contradict each other from one minute to the other. These cadres were more confused when the attention of the media, present in the Palace of Nations, focused on Mr. Omar Hadrami. At 2000 Geneva time, the two delegations returned to the Palace of Nations, and immediately afterward they went to the meeting hall where the first meeting of the two delegations started.

Committee Ends Work

LD0706225990 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Excerpts] The work of the UN committee in charge of defining the identity of the voters in the planned referendum in the Sahara ended today in Geneva. The UN committee expressed in a press statement satisfaction at the work of the committee. The television correspondent in Geneva supplied us with this dispatch:

The work of the committee in charge of identifying the population which will take part in the referendum to be organized by the United Nations in our southern regions ended today at the Palais de Nations in Geneva. The last day of these meetings was characterized by the holding of two closed meetings lasting about four hours which were chaired by 'Abd al-Rahim Farah in the presence of a number of UN officials. [passage omitted]

At the end of the work of the committee, Mr. Manz, special representative of the UN secretary general, held a news conference at the start of which he distributed a press statement. The statement confirmed that within the framework of the facilitation of the work of the committee in charge of defining the identity of the population which will take part in the referendum, a UN group led by Mr. Johannes Manz held meetings in Geneva in the period 4-7 June with 38 representatives of Saharan shaykhs who had been invited by the UN secretay general, Mr. Perez de Cuellar. These meetings were attended by a representative of the current chairman of the OAU. The press statement pointed out that these meetings have enabled the UN group to acquaint the Saharan shaykhs with the role of the committee and to ask their assistance in the reaching of positive results. The statement pointed out that the results of the census carried out in 1974 by Spain were taken as a basis for this referendum and as an historic document.

Some remarks were recorded and taken into consideration. The UN group expressed its satisfaction at the atmosphere in which these metings were held at the opportunity which has enabled the Saharan family to meet after several years of separation. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Formation of Shamir's New Government

Shamir To Announce Ministers 10 Jun

TA0706190690 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Report by party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Yitzhaq Shamir will not announce the final composition of his Cabinet until Sunday [10 June], prior to the Likud Central Committee meeting. David Levi and Moshe Arens have reached an agreement on senior positions in the Cabinet: Levi will be in charge of the Foreign Ministry while Arens will be the defense minister. Ari'el Sharon will be the senior minister overseeing construction and immigrant absorption issues. Moshe Nisim will be able to choose whether to return to the Justice Ministry or settle his dispute with Yitzhaq Moda'i, who is slated as finance minister, and return to the Treasury. Minister Milo is a candidate for police affairs minister if SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] receives the Communications Ministry. [passage omitted]

Degel Hatora Backs Out

TA0706202090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] Degel Hatora announced a short while ago that it will not sign the coalition agreement. Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Gafni told our correspondent Shlomo Raz that he and his colleagues have reached the conclusion that their discussions with the NRP [National Religious Party] on the appointment of a Degel Hatora director general for the Religious Affairs Ministry have yielded nothing. The Likud, said Gafni, had promised Degel Hatora first pick of a Cabinet portfolio, but the party decided to forgo that privilege. Yet now, Degel Hatora is being deprived of even the position of director general of the Religious Affairs Ministry.

Ministers Nisim and Olmert, plus MK Sharon, are currently conferring with Minister Der'i in an attempt to reach an accord with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] tonight. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the Likud is offering SHAS the Interior Ministry and the Communications Ministry, but without control over television's second channel. SHAS was also offered the post of deputy director general of the Israel Lands Administration.

Announcement of Government Postponed

TA0806062690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0612 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir will not go to the president at 1000 [0700 GMT] as scheduled, in order to announce his ability to form a new government. The announcement to the president has been postponed. This was learned a few minutes ago from the Prime Minister's Bureau.

At present, the prime minister intends to sign the coalition agreement before anything else. The signing ceremony is scheduled to take place at the Prime Minister's Office at 1230 [0930 GMT]; only after that will Mr. Shamir advise the president that he has been successful in forming a new government.

Mr. Yosi Ahime'ir, the director of the Prime Minister's Bureau, told us a short while ago: The prime minister has time until the Sabbath [1605 GMT].

Thus, the conference with President Herzog has been postponed by several hours at least and will not take place at 1000.

Government Guidelines Signed

TA0806124790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] The guidelines of the new government, which will be based on 62 Knesset members, were signed a few minutes ago at the prime minister's bureau, but the coalition accord has still not been signed because of the dispute between the NRP [National Religious Party] and Degel Hatora over the distribution of responsibilities within the Religious Affairs Ministry. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1230 GMT in concluding its live relay from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on the signing ceremony reports that "the coalition agreement has been signed."] After the signing ceremony, Mr. Shamir addressed his partners in the new government.

The guidelines say that the government will continue to act on the basis of the tasks undertaken by the previous government. It will advance peace in accordance with the framework of the Camp David accords and the government's initiative of May 1989 in its entirety. The government will oppose a Palestinian state between the sea and the Jordan River and will not negotiate with the PLO, either directly or indirectly. The government undertakes to maintain security and to that end will strengthen the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and will operate against terrorism.

The guidelines also contain a response to the Tzomet movement's demands. They say that the possibility of a change in the electoral system will be investigated.

Shamir Announcement, News Conference

TA0806132490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1150 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Announcement and impromptu news conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir during ceremony presenting the coalition agreement and the government's basic guidelines at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Gentlemen, ministers, members of the Knesset, heads of factions and honorable guests:

This ceremony of signing the basic guidelines of the government, which will take office next week, God willing, as well as the coalition agreement, heralds the successful end of a great deal of work and mental effort invested by all partners making up the new government in Israel today.

The State of Israel today needs a national government which will conduct the affairs of state at this difficult and danger-fraught time—which also entails many prospects—with a view to solving the numerous problems that are awaiting the right solutions.

The government's main effort will be devoted to the most important issue in our lives today: the mass immigration coming to Israel and its absorption. At the same time, of course, we will deal with all the important issues lying ahead of us: advancing toward peace, strengthening security, settlement, developing the economy, solving social problems, and other issues which the Cabinet members will have to deal with day and night.

The signing of the coalition agreement reflects the commitment of the signatories to work with all their strength and ability for the sake of the people and the country.

Distinguished listeners, in the last few years we got used to so-called national unity governments. National unity is a supreme value which is always needed and desirable, but this unity must also be exercised in reality in all spheres of action. I pray that national unity will prevail within the government we are setting up today, and that we all act with affinity and as one, and speak with one voice for the sake of the Israeli people and Greater Israel.

Gentlemen, allow me to propose a toast to the State of Israel and to the success of the government. Lehayim! [applause]

[Political correspondent Arye Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, are you pleased with the government you managed to form?

[Shamir] We will see that once it is in place and begins to operate.

[Golan] Do you still harbor some doubts, or do you know for a fact that you have a government? Will you not have last minute surprises?

[Shamir] A friend here told me: We go to such ceremonies with a mixed feeling of joy and apprehension.

[Golan] Arye Der'i said that. Is he a friend now?

[Shamir] He has always been a friend.

[Golan] Will this government, which rests on the right wing, be able to advance peace and really adhere to your peace initiative?

[Shamir] This government represents many facets and circles within the Israeli people; this is a broad national government. It is neither a right-wing nor a left-wing government.

[Golan] Will it be able to bring us peace, sir?

[Shamir] I very much hope so.

[Golan] Are you pleased with the make-up of this government and the distribution of portfolios?

[Shamir] The portfolios are not the main thing; the main thing is the government's actions and the results of those actions.

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, have you completed the distribution of portfolios?

[Shamir] Not yet.

[Golan] Why not?

[Shamir, laughing] I was busy negotiating with Rabbi Mizrahi [of Agudat Yisra'el].

[IDF Radio's Natan Gutman] Will there by any new ministers from the Likud?

[Shamir] No.

[Golan] Will this government last? It is made up of many partners, and you had to appoint deputy ministers and make numerous other internal appointments within the ministries.

[Shamir] It will not be easy. I will try my very best to see that this government will remain in power until the legal time scheduled for an election.

[Gutman] In any event, you have no intention of calling early elections.

[Shamir] One does not set up governments in order to call early elections.

[Golan] You said that a national unity government is a supreme value.

[Shamir] I said national unity was a supreme value.

[Golan] Are you contemplating the possibility of calling on the Alignment to join, or is this totally out of the question at this point?

[Shamir] This is not a realistic possibility.

Shamir Informs Herzog

TA0806124890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1220 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] Our correspondent Nava Kohen reports that President Herzog has been officially informed of the establishment of a government. At 1500 the prime minister telephoned the president of the state and informed him of his success in forming a government. At

the same time, he also dispatched a letter to the president, containing the same announcement. Formally speaking, this procedure is normal; the prime minister need not personally go to the president of the state with this announcement. The mandate he was given by the president for forming the government expires at midnight today, and the process involved has indeed been completed.

Future of Coalition Uncertain

TA0806142490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] Minister Ehud Olmert, one of the main negotiators involved in the establishment of the new government, said that this is not the happiest moment of his public life. It is possible that this government will only be a way station on the route to a change in the electoral system or early elections, he said.

Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said that this government was conceived in sin. Its majority is based on defectors. It might solve the problems of several parties, but not those of the state.

Minister Ari'el Sharon, slated to be construction and housing minister with wide-ranging powers in immigrant absorption, expressed the hope that the government will complete its full term.

Agudat Yisra'el Knesset Member [MK] Menahem Porush reiterated that his party would not vote in favor of the government, and was greatly upset about MK Eli'ezer Mizrahi's defection to the Likud ranks. He ridiculed the demand for coalition partners to participate in all Knesset votes because of its narrow base, and said that Bush and Baker would now have to be invited to Israel because no one can leave the country anymore. The problem is easier for President Mubarak because he is closer.

Shinuy said the new government is morally abhorrent because it is based on defectors, although Shim'on Peres was also prepared to use the same means to set up a government. MK Avraham Poraz told our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen that it is also an inflationary government because of the large number of deputy ministers. The solution is to change the electoral system immediately and hold new elections under the new arrangement.

Accord Not Signed by All Partners

TA0806143790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] Representatives of the new coalition signed the government's basic guidelines and the coalition accord about two hours ago. Only Degel Hatora has still not signed the coalition agreement because of its dispute with the NRP [National Religious Party] over distribution of powers in the Religious Affairs Ministry.

The problems of Yig'al Hurvitz, Aharon Abu-Hatzera, and Avraham Sharir, who have independent status in the Likud, have also still not been solved because of their demands for positions in the governments.

The coalition accord and the distribution of portfolios will be presented to the Likud Central Committee on Sunday [10 June] and to the Knesset on Monday afternoon [11 June].

Labor: U.S. Should Continue PLO Dialogue

TA0706135690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Jun 90 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] A growing number of Labour Party leaders believe the U.S. should continue its dialogue with the PLO, whether or not it expels Palestine Liberation Front leader Muhammad 'Abbas [Abu al-'Abbas] or condemns last week's aborted seaborne attack. This emerged from a series of interviews conducted by THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday.

Former ministers Gad Ya'aqobi, Ya'aqov Tzur, Hayim Bar-Lev and Moshe Shahal were unequivocal about their desire for the 18-month-old U.S.-PLO dialogue to continue regardless of whether PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat fulfills U.S. expectations in the aftermath of the attack.

"I am not convinced Israel has a real interest in halting the ties between the PLO and the U.S.," Ya'aqobi said. "This will not help us in creating the environment that we need for negotiations between the Palestinians in the territories and Israel for West Bank elections." However, he called on 'Arafat to denounce the attack as being "against PLO policy."

Tzur said the U.S.-PLO dialogue has an important role that has to be continued as it reflects the complexity of the Middle East. "We all love simple situations," he said. "But, the Middle East is full of contradictions. The U.S.-PLO dialogue is positive, not because it is leading to Israeli-PLO talks, but because it ensures that the PLO will drop its veto of West Bank elections."

To halt the U.S.-PLO dialogue would reward the extremists in the Palestinian camp, Bar-Lev said.

"The PLO is a big coalition," he added. "There are extremist elements and moderate elements. Today there can be no peace process without a green light from the PLO. The U.S. does not have to push the PLO in an extremist direction. Stopping the dialogue would do this."

Shahal echoed this theme in underlining the importance of the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

Both Yitzhaq Rabin and Yitzhaq Navon said that they would not comment on the subject of the future of the U.S.-PLO dialogue, as it is an American decision.

Navon, however, added, "The PLO should convene whatever bodies necessary and expel Abu al-'Abbas."

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1000 GMT on 7 June adds: "The prime minister is said to be angered by the report that leaders of the Labor Alignment support the continuation of the dialogue between the United States and the PLO. The original report appeared in THE JERUSALEM POST, and was based on interviews with Gad Ya'aqobi, Ya'aqov Tzur, and Moshe Shahal. In his talks with leaders of the National Religious Party, the premier said this position weakened the State of Israel."]

Al-Musawi on Conditions for Hostages' Release

LD0706162890 Kuwait KUNA in English 1510 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] Beirut, June 7 (KUNA)—A pro-Iranian Shiite leader pledged here Thursday [7 June] to take "positive steps" pertaining the status of the remaining Western hostages if the West and the United States "take similar positive steps concerning our questions."

Leader of the Shiite [Islamic] Amal Movement Husayn al-Musawi, in an interview with a local radio station, said that the release of foreign hostages held in Lebanon could take place before the end of this year. However, he added that the matter might take a little longer time and could be completed by the end of next year, noting that "if the West and specifically the Americans take a positive step toward our questions, then this will be followed by similar steps."

Fifteen foreign hostages, including six Americans, are still being held by kidnappers.

Meanwhile, al-Musawi warned that the hostages might suffer 'negative measures' if it was confirmed that four Iranian diplomats, held by Lebanese militias, have died.

The four Iranians, who were kidnapped during the time of the late President Bashir al-Jumayyil, have been declared dead by the United States, which relayed the information to Iran less than a month ago.

"If the death of the four Iranians in Lebanon was confirmed, then this will not be in the interest of the Western hostages but rather it will be to their disadvantage," the Shiite leader emphasized.

More on Al-Musawi Conditions

NC0706120090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1140 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, has reiterated that there is a link between the issue of hostages and the stands of the West. He said: If the West, and specifically the Americans, take a positive step toward our issues, this will be followed by similar steps. He added: Syria and Iran guarantee this. Al-Musawi did not rule out the release of hostages at the end of this year or before the end of next year. He also said: Let the Americans and Israelis agree on the release of detainees in Israeli prisons. We never deal with the Israelis.

Israeli Forces Reportedly on 'Maximum Alert'

NC0706074190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] The Israeli forces and their militia in the South have been put on maximum alert in the past few hours.

Security sources have reported that the Israeli forces have established strongly armed checkpoints on crossroads in the Marj 'Uyun-(Sahl al-Dardarah) area, where cars have been meticulously searched.

The Israeli forces have also brought armored and artillery reinforcements into their positions in the occupied border strip.

The occupation forces in Marj 'Uyun have fired approximately 50 flares over the area of Tyre and the nearby villages. Some flares fell near the townships of Qabrikha, Majdal Silm, Tulin, (al-Suwwanah), and Shaqra. The enemy forces had earlier shelled areas in western al-Biqa.

Meanwhile, resistance fighters have launched an attack on the militia position in Tallat al-Radar, inflicting casualties. Agent Lahd's radio admitted the operation but, as usual, did not mention any casualties.

Gunfire Exchanges Violate Eastern Area Truce

NC0606145190 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] The truce in the eastern area was violated on the al-Nab'ah and Sinn al-Fil combat lines at approximately 1420 today. According to security reports, heavy and light machine-gun fire and rockets were exchanged for half an hour on these lines. The media of the two warring parties have accused each other of violating the truce.

Mediation Committee member lawyer Shakir Abu-Sulayman had earlier resumed his efforts to consolidate the cease-fire and prevent security disruptions. He met General Michel 'Awn at the B'abda Palace at noon to discuss ways of halting nighttime violations and making the truce permanent.

LF Reportedly Release Six 'Awn Supporters

NC0706150690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Excerpt] As part of the efforts to consolidate the truce and as a prelude to a comprehensive solution, the Lebanese Forces [LF] this afternoon released six members of 'Awn's group who had been detained during the recent events. [passage omitted]

Sa'adah Takes Over Telecommunications Ministry

NC0706143890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] Dr. George Sa'adah, minister of telecommunications and post, has taken over his post from Acting Minister Edmond Rizq. Minister Sa'adah will hold an administrative meeting with ministry officials at the al-Nahr telephone exchange center tomorrow at 1000.

Afghanistan

Diplomats Say Najibullah To Visit India 'Soon'

BK0806082090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0804 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Excerpt] New Delhi, June 8 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah will visit India soon for talks on Kashmir and other issues affecting the two countries in the wake of the U.S.-Soviet summit, senior diplomats said here Friday [8 June]. The dates for Mr. Najibullah's visit would be discussed in talks between Indian leaders and Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil who arrives in New Delhi Monday, the sources said.

Indian Government officials were not immediately available for comment, but the diplomats said Mr. Najibullah had accepted an Indian invitation to visit New Delhi which supports his government.

"It is not clear when the president will come because it will be only settled during Mr. Wakil's trip here," one senior Asian diplomat told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The planned visit would be the first since the change of government in New Delhi. Mr. Najibullah last came here in 1988 when former Premier Rajiv Gandhi headed the government, and had met Mr. Gandhi during the Non-aligned Movement summit in Belgrade last year.

Reports Friday said Mr. Najibullah and the new Indian Prime Minister, Viswanath Pratap Singh, would discuss Pakistan's alleged interference in the internal affairs of the two countries during the Afghan leader's visit here.

"The agenda will also be decided during Mr. Wakil's visit," the Asian diplomat said.

Afghan Ambassador to India, Ahmad Sarwar, said the talks between Mr. Wakil and Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral would cover "bilateral, regional and international issues".

"Kashmir would be the most important item to be discussed during the foreign minister's visit," Mr. Sarwar said, adding that Mr. Wakil would meet other Indian leaders during his four-day visit.

Mr. Wakil is also scheduled to attend an Indo-Afghan joint commission meeting related mainly to trade, aid and investment.

The visits of Mr. Wakil and Mr. Najibullah take on significance in the light of the recently-concluded four-day summit between Soviet leader Michael Gorbachev and United States President George Bush in which Kashmir and Afghanistan were discussed, diplomatic observers here said. [passage omitted]

Loya Jirga Sends Message to UN Secretary

LD0706080890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Kabul, June 4, BAKHTAR—Hereby we extend the deepest gratitude of the people of Afghanistan from this high tribune of the May Loya Jerga to your constructive efforts for the political solution of the issues in and around Afghanistan, says a message of the May Loya Jerga of the people of Afghanistan addressed to Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations Organisation.

The participants of the May Loya Jerga in the light of the new transformations in the world as well as in the Afghan society, for the expansion and deepening of the policy of national reconciliation and as per the proposals made by our people approved some amendments to the constitution, which are providing the grounds for an extensive mutual understanding among the Afghans and further expansion of democracy in the country, points the message.

The message while emphasizing on the Islamic nature of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] reads in a part that in the new amendments to the constitution of the country, the Islamic nature of Afghanistan has been enshrined in the first article of the constitution, and the priviliged stance of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan included in the prelude of the constitution, has been ommitted and political pluralism has been accepted as the corner stone of the political system of the country.

A generalised, equal, free, secret, and direct principle has been determined for staging general election. The legislature and systems of the country have been neutralised and as non party organs, investigation into the allegations charged on high ranking state official and the procedures of their trial have been anticipated, and the appointment of those individuals whose spouse had not been born from Afghan parents, to the high ranking civil and military posts as well as to Afghan diplomatic missions in abroad [as received] has been negated in the amended constitution of the country.

Meanwhile, the economic and social activities in the private sector has been expanded. Monopoly or control by the state on these spheres has been terminated or diminished. And by taken [as received] into view the national interest of Afghanistan, foreign investment has been encouraged in the country, establishment of banks, as well as setting up of educational and training institutions by foreigners are allowed in the country.

In the same view, in the constitution of the country the provision of the grounds for regaining of the ligitimate, permanent neutral stand of Afghanistan and demilitarisation of the country have been anticipated.

The message of the May Loya Jerga addressed to UN secretary general, while appreciating the proposed mechanism of Najibullah president of the RA, said that this mechanism aimed at the ensurance of the wills and

demands of the people of Afghanistan via generalised, free, equal, secret and direct election under the international aegis has been approved by the Loya Jerga as per this mechanism a period of cooling down of the situation aimed at providing primarily conditions for negotiation, including a referrundum, partial or full cease-fire, and repatriation of the Afghan refugees has been forecast in the constitution of the country.

With the commencement of the negotiation a transitional period will be established and it will continue its work till the election of a new government.

During this transitional period a national peace conference will be convocated which will set up an electoral preparatory committee, commissions for the enactment of the constitution, and commission for the law on general election. Then the Loya Jerga will be held to approve the new constitution and elect president of the country. Afterward parliamentary elections will be staged and a new government which will be acceptable by all the people, will be elected and take the affairs of the country at hand.

For the solution of the foreign aspects of the issues of Afghanistan, an international conference, supervised by the UN on the cessation of arms delivery to the warring sides, precise observance of the Geneva accords, determination of the legitimate permanent neutral status of Afghanistan and its demilitarisation, as well as [passage indistinct].

PDPA Publishes 'Watan Party' Draft Program

LD0606173190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] The draft of the new People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] action program under the rubric: Watan Party's Action Program [Homeland Party's Action Program] was published in the 14th issue of PAYAM newspaper—publication organ of the PDPA Central Committee, dated Jawza [beginning in May], for expression of views by the compatriots.

The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reported that by publication of the draft charter and action program of the Watan Party, the stage of gathering views for the renewal of the party in the framework of the policy of national reconciliation has begun.

Kabul citizens have welcomed the publication of these documents for receiving public opinion and they have purchased with interest thousands of issues of PAYAM newspaper—containing the draft of the party's new action program.

Balkh Security Operation Detailed 5 June

LD0506203690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Text] Balkh state security official crushed in an ambush a group of extremists in the village of Jang 'Ali in that province. As a result, five people, including the deputy ringleader, were killed and eight people were wounded. Four others were captured with their weapons and ammunition.

Kabul Rocket Attack Kills One, Injures Five

LD0306165490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Jun 90

[Text] As a result of the impact of six surface-to-surface missiles fired by extremists today, one Kabul citizen was martyred and five other were wounded. The BAKHTAR military section reported that the wounded were taken to hospital and are under intensive medical care.

These missiles, which are of Sakr type, were fired from the west at Kabul city and hit the second, third and fourth wards. They also caused material damage.

Mujahidin Capture Town Military Posts in Herat

BK0206111990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Jun 90

[Text] In the western Afghan province of Herat, the mujahidin have attacked a Kabul regime military headquarters in the subdivisional town of Pashtun Zarghun.

According to a report, the Kabul troops could not resist the surprise attack of the mujahidin and fled away, carrying several dead bodies and the injured toward Herat. The mujahidin captured the military headquarters and also seized 14 military vehicles, 200 Kalashnikov rifles, 11 machine guns, and three tanks.

Spokesman Criticizes Pakistan Plan To Down Planes

LD0106165490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 1 Jun 90

[Text] Kabul, May 30, BAKHTAR—With the participation of local and foreign journalists, an explanatory sitting was held in the Store palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here today. A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that during the sitting Sarwar Yuresh, head of the Press Centre and spokesman of the Presidency of Afghanistan explained the recent hostile measures of the Pakistani authorities towar the Republic of Afghanistan (RA).

Suresh said that according to the reliable reports obtained from a number of the local commanders who are in contact with the state of the RA, the Inter-Service Intelligence of Pakistan (ISI) has ordered some of these commanders to attack Soviet transport planes flying to Kabul and intensify their war operations on different parts of Afghanistan. These operation are to be carried out under the nickname Star-2.

Results of such Pakistani measures are the extremists rocket attack on Kabul and increase of military pressures on the Khowst Grand District and other corners of the RA, Yuresh said.

Such Pakistani directives to the said commanders pose grave threats to the planes of the ICRC [International Committee for the Red Cross] and other civil and commercial planes flying to Kabul.

The spokesman of the Presidency said that such naked measures of the ISI are flagrant violations from the provisions of the Geneva accords and other internationally accepted norms as well as Islamic principles, consequences of which will rest on the Pakistani side.

India

India Launches 'Fresh Initiative' for Peace

BK0706162490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] India has launched a fresh initiative to deescalate the tension on the Indo-Pak border. New Delhi has also suggested several measures to Islamabad to restore confidence in the relations between the two countries. Pakistan's response to the suggestions have already been received and it is now under the consideration of the Government of India. Disclosing this in New Delhi this evening, an external affairs spokesman said that the confidence-building measures suggested by New Delhi were both of military and nonmilitary nature. The measures include prevention of acts detrimental to the maintenance of peace and harmony, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, closure of training camps of terrorists and stoppage of supply of arms, ammunition, and explosives to them. India also wanted that all potential intruders should be arrested and their arms seized. Transit facilities to militants and terrorists should be denied by both the countries and all officially-sponsored funds viewed by other country as detrimental to the maintenance of harmony in the other country be closed. [sentence as heard]

Reiterating India's resolve to abide by the Simla agreement, New Delhi also wanted a categorical reaffirmation by Pakistan in this regard. This requires the two nations to settle their differences by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations. Besides, both sides would have to respect the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir and not seek to alter it unilaterally. The spokesman said that the Government of India attaches priority to the pursuit of policy of good neighborliness. Pakistan being the largest neighbor, New Delhi has nothing but friendliest feelings toward the people of Pakistan. He said the Government of India is also committed to explore all avenues to achieve a constructive and cooperative relation with Pakistan for peace and stability in the region.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the Pakistan foreign office, while confirming that they have their response sent to New Delhi for the Indian proposals, said in Islamabad today that they have proposed a meeting of the foreign secretaries of the two countries this month at a mutually-agreed place. The meeting is to discuss measures to remove causes of the present tension.

AIR [All India Radio] Islamabad correspondent, Suresh Chopra, reports that the foreign office spokesman also confirmed that Pakistan has welcomed the majority of the proposals made by India in its package. He also said that Pakistan has noted the Indian withdrawal of its armored formations from the Indo-Pakistan border.

Nepalese Premier Begins Three-Day State Visit

BK0806075890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] The Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, was given a ceremonial welcome on his arrival in New Delhi today on a three-day state visit to India. He was received at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] by the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, his Cabinet colleagues, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Mr. Arjun Singh, and other senior officials. This is the first visit of the head of government of Nepal after the ushering in of a multiparty democracy in the Himalayan kingdom.

Mr. Bhattarai expressed happiness to be in India. Asked about his statement that he would quit if he failed in his mission to reopen Nepal's trade routes through India, Mr. Bhattarai said it is no threat to India. When a Nepalese journalist asked V.P. Singh if something concrete will emerge after the talks, Mr. Singh replied: Certainly. Mr. Singh said that the leaders of the two countries have the political will to resolve all problems and recalled that the National Front election manifesto had also pledged to restore bilateral relations with Nepal. In reply to another question, Mr. Singh said when friends meet there are no problems.

Five 'Intruders' Killed Near Border in Punjab

BK0806091890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] In Punjab, five intruders from across the border were killed in an encounter with the BSF [Border Security Force] in Amritsar District late last night. According to an official spokesman, a large quantity of arms and ammunition have been recovered from their possession. In another encounter, one of the two terrorists who opened fire at a police party was killed when policemen returned the fire near village Manawal in Kapurthala District last evening.

In Amritsar District, terrorists gunned down four persons in separate incidents. The terrorists however managed to escape.

Kashmiri Militants Kill Relative of Home Minister

BK0806092290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, militants shot dead Ghulam Hasan Shah, a close relation of the union home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, at Bejbehara in Anantnag District last night. Agency reports quoting

police sources say that some unidentified militants forced their entry into the house of Mr. Shah and sprayed bullets on him from close range. Security forces have launched an intensive drive to search for the assailants.

The union home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, who arrived in Srinagar this morning on a two-day visit to the state went straight to Bejbehara.

Iran

UK Hostages' Release Linked to Rushdie Expulsion

NC0706182090 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] Husayn al-Musawi, alias Abu-Hisham, a member of Lebanon's Hizballah, has stated that the key to the solution of the issue of the Western hostages in Lebanon is in the hands of the United States and Britain. He added: We have repeatedly said that if these two governments take a positive step, the other side will take positive measures as well.

Abu-Hisham said: The release of the U.S. hostages is in the hands of Washington, which can apply pressure on Israel to release the hundreds of Arabs held in Zionist jails. This is something that the kidnappers are asking.

In his statement, Abu-Hisham asked Britain to expel Salman Rushdie to speed up the release of the British hostages. He said: The expulsion of Salman Rushdie will result in the release of the British hostages. We are waiting for a practical answer from the British Government to our proposal.

Velayati on Iraq, Soviet Border, U.S. Claims

LD0706162890 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] Tabriz, East Azerbaijan prov., June 7, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Thursday [7 June] termed the resolution passed by the Arab summit meet in Baghdad as being "in contrast with the Iraqi regime's claims that it wants peace."

Outlining the negative points in the resolution, Velayati described its emphasis on exchange of war prisoners out of the framework of resolution 598 as "illogical."

"Another negative point of the Arab summit resolution is its baseless claims on the Arvand River. To this end, the Islamic Republic of Iran has time after time announced its irrevocable stance," Velayati told a press conference here.

He made it clear that "the thalweg of the Arvand River is the border between Iran and Iraq and any claims except this one will push the peace talks between the two countries into stalemate."

"The Islamic Republic's main condition for its peace talks with Iraq is based on an accord signed by the two countries in 1975 and the U.N. resolution 598," the foreign minister said.

Commenting on an Irano-Soviet agreement on cross border travel, Velayati said that according to the pact 11 border points have been specified along the border strip for this purpose.

"To us, there is no impediment for implementation of the agreement...in the past, this agreement had been enforced periodically several times but as to its full execution the Soviet party would probably provide necessary facilities," he said.

On the issue of Hajj, Velayati said "The Saudi Government by throwing obstacles has barred the Iranian people from performing Hajj pilgrimage, but we have been, and still are, persistent in performing the Hajj rituals."

The foreign minister expressed hope that Muslim governments would exert presure on the Saudi regime to lift its illegitimate obstacles to the hajj pilgrimage.

On the Iran-U.S. legal claims under investigation at the Hague, he said that Iranian representatives were defending the rights of the Islamic Republic. He predicted that the process would take a long time and all cases would be settled one by one in the long run.

Velayati who is a pediatrician, is here to participate in an international medical seminar.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Holds News Conference 6 Jun

LD0706101590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 6 Jun 90

[News conference given by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 6 June; place not given; moderator is unidentified and speaks in English throughout; correspondents' questions asked in languages other than Persian have superimposed Persian translation—recorded]

[Text] [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. We welcome all honorable reporters and thank the Iranian and other countries' Muslims who participated in the ceremonies marking the anniversary of the passing away of his eminence the imam of the ummah. I am ready to answer questions from the reporters.

[Moderator] First I call on (Yves Pelet) from the French newspaper LE MONDE.

[(Pelet)—in English] After the Arab summit in Baghdad and its resolution about Iran-Iraq war is there a possibility that the presidents of the two countries will meet?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] A meeting between the presidents of the two countries has been proposed by the Iraqi government and we have not given a negative reply to it; but we have said that prior to any meeting expert talks

should take place under the supervision of the UN secretary general to ensure the success of a meting if there is going to be one. Of course, what was said at the Baghdad conference has cast some doubt on our interprettion of the Iraqi Government's letter, as our understanding of the letter, initiated by Iraq, was mainly that they seriously seek peace.

[Moderator] Next is Anwar Nasir Faruqi of the ASSOCIATED PRESS.

[Faruqi—in Engish] Mr. President, you have expressed your dissatisfaction with the Western unwillingness to make a goodwill gesture for the release of the U.S. and other Western hostages in Lebanon Ist April. How do you view prospects for the release of other hostages and, in particular, the U.S. hostages?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Our policy is to help the release of all hostages in Lebanon, whether Western hostages or Lebanese hostages in Israel or our hostages in Lebanon. We continue our policy in accordance with the views of the exalted leader. But America's irresponsible approach to the issue, in my opinion, has made the situation difficult.

[Moderator] Mr. (Hamza) from JEUNE AFRIQUE.

[(Hamza)—in Arabic] Geetings to you. Mr. President, following Saddam Husayn's letters to you, are there new issues regarding peace or not? Are you prepared to meet him? If the answer is positive, what do you expect of a meeting between the presidents of the two countries. The second question: Is there any news about Iranian pilgrims participating in this year's hajj and are there still obstacles in that regard? The third question is, what is the Iranian stance regarding Gorbachev's policy vis-a-vis the Muslim people of the Soviet republics?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I have answered the first question already. Following the dispatch of the Iraqi letters our hopes were raised about Iraq's seriousness in restorating peace—which of course became weaker, up to a point, after what happened at the Baghdad conference. The meeting is conditional upon our assurance that it is going to be a successful one, otherwise, no meeting will take place becasue in that case the meeting would be harmful.

Regarding Mecca, we made a great many efforts, both direct and indirect, both with the Saudis themselves and through intermediaries in order for the Iranian pilgrims to go to Mecca. But it became clear that the Saudis were pressured by others, presumably by the Americans and some other countries which do not want Iranian pilgrims to take part in the Mecca ceremonies because they understand the cultural and religious impact of the presence of Iranians and they are frightened. I think this year that there is not enough time but, of course, we will continue our efforts in order to resolve the problem for the coming years, God willing.

About Mr. Gorbachev's policy toward the [Soviet] Islamic republics, the freedoms given are praiseworthy. For the first time since the Soviet Marxist revolution, Muslims feel free. We welcome that policy and we hope the trend will continue.

[Moderator] Next I call on Mr. Vahdani from the Islamic Republic News Agency.

[Vahdani] Yesterday the British prime minister announced that Iran has called for the resumption of ties with Britain and Britain is also seeking a resumption of mutual ties with Iran. With regard to the fact that the resumption of relations with Britain are conditional upon the implementation of some issues determined by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, what is your assessment of the situation? That was the first question. Another question is that, the Western media, the representatives of which are present here, has tried to insinuate over the past year that the Islamic Republic of Iran needs the western countries to succeed in its economic reconstruction and therefore it is forced to abandon some of the ideals of the imam. Let us know your opinion, as president, about what has been suggested by the Western media.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Regarding the first question, in principle we have no problem in restoring our relations with Britain. That is perhaps, what the British Government wants and what we want too. But the reality is the bad attitude of Britain over the issue of the book, The Satanic Verses, in connection with which the Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majles] passed a law regarding the British attitude toward the issue. Now the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy is based on that law. Whenever Britain is prepared to implement that law no other obstacles will remain on the path to restoring relations. And, I think, as long as they are not prepared to do so the situation will remain as it is.

About your second question, either it was in fact the mistake of the West thinking that Iran needs them badly, or, worse than that, they assumed that Iran is prepared to abandon its principled policies and the policies of his eminence the imam for its needs. Both of these are wrong. First of all, the Iranian reconstruction needs are not unavoidable needs. Of course every country needs other countries. But needs are reciprocal. Some need one thing and others need other things. International relations are based on such reciprocal needs of nations. Our needs are such that they can be satisfied, as they were satisfied during the time of the war, under the severest of conditions. Let us say we are in desparate need—it is natural that the principle issue for us is our revolution and there is nothing in the world dearer to us than the revolution and the revolutionary ideals drawn by the imam—we are prepared to abandon anything to safeguard the ideals of our revolution. Of course we do not need to abandon anything as such problems do not exist. Westerners are compensating for their own mistakes.

[John Simpson of the BBC—in English] Iranian officials have been quoted as saying that relations with Britain can be restored if the British Government condemns the

insults made against Islam in Salman Rushdie's book of The Satanic Verses. Mrs. Thatcher has now done this. Is there now a possibility of restoring relations? The second question is: Specifically, what are the Majles' rules regarding establishing ties with Britain?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] That you say Mrs Thatcher has condemned The Satanic Verses—I do not know whether such a condemnation was made or not. We have instructed our Foreign Ministry that whenever the Majles' determinations are implemented then it has the authority to restore relations. As far as I remember, that determination by the Majles includes a point about the British Government having to condemn the insults made against Islam in the book called The Satanic Verses, while it should also respect the rights of Muslims. The determination was roughly about that. Of course, it had three clauses, and it has been published, and you can go and see it. In any case, if the determination is implemented, and Britain stops its stubborness and its inappropriate fanaticism in supporting insults made against Islam, then such relations can be restored soon. I think it would be wise and logical for Westerners not to allow Islam—which is now the second religion in Europe—to be insulted. This is not in anyone's interest, as the world of Islam, ultimately, will not forgive such insults. The stances adopted by Western governments vis-a-vis The Satanic Verses affair hurt Muslims more than the book itself, because they showed that as a policy they seek to belittle Muslims.

[Moderator] Muhammad (Amhas) from Radio Sound of Mustaz'afin, the Voice of the Oppressed. And may I ask Mr. Muhammad Majzub from Syrian Television to be next please.

[(Ahmas)—in Arabic] When the small state of Israel was created in [words indistinct] at that time there was no political system in the world called the Islamic Republic. Does Imam Khomeyni's Islamic Republic now have a practical plan for confronting the new conspiracy of the Zionist occupiers, which has been falsely defined as the immigration of Jews, but in reality is nothing but a conspiracy aimed at the creation of a Greater Israel? In other words, in practice, what stage are we in at present? And when will the slogan of Iran Today, Palestine Tomorrow materialize? What will the 20-million strong army do to regain Jerusalem?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The struggle to regain the rights of the Palestinian people has been one of the main objectives of our revolution, and this still remains so. For this reason, during this time, through the hands of the supporters of Israel and their regional allies, we became enganed in a war which was imposed on us, as well as other circumstances which you know of. We do have a plan in that connection, and we are fully aware of the danger of the new process of migration on the way. When a suitable time comes, action will be taken. Public opinion in the world of Islam must be prepared for such a time, and this is taking place at present. We believe that Israel, as a surplus member within the body of the Islamic world in the region, cannot last. Finally, one day that surplus member will be removed from that body; and the idea of a Greater Israel is now redundant for those who had the idea in the first place. With the shining of the Islamic system of government in Iran, such ideas no longer have any place. All the efforts of Israel and its backers are aimed at preserving the present situation. The westerners are also aware that such a situation cannot be maintained in the long term, and under the present circumstances this is merely a short-term policy. I clearly predict that in the not-too-distant future Palestine will be given back to its original owners.

[Moderator] Mr. Muhammad Majzub, from Syrian Television, and may I ask Mr. Ronald Davis from NBC television to be ready.

[Majzub in Arabic] The first question is: In view of the changes in international arena as well as in the Middle East region, and in the wake of the letters from the head of the Iraqi regime to the Iranian leadership, how do you view the future of relations between Iran and Syria? The second question is: Talks are in progress between Iran and the United States about the return of Iran's assets from U.S. banks. How far have these talks progressed and has the U.S. Government set some conditions for the return of such assets?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In reply to the first question, our relations with Syria are strategic ties, which are not influenced by such issues. We consider Syria as the main bastion of resistance against the expansionism of Israel, and we profoundly support Syria for that special characteristic it possesses. In Lebanon it is Syria which safeguards the people's interests, while within the Arab world Syria is the most serious government, as far as struggle against Israel is concerned, and it is also the nearest target for Israel.

In reply to your second question, the situation is taking its course in a normal manner in The Hague; that is to say that sometimes the court passes judgment, and sometimes the parties involved reach an understanding. Recently, work has been progressing slightly faster in The Hague, but nothing new has come about. Neither the Americans nor we have any conditions for issues relating to the work of the court in The Hague.

[Moderator] Mr. Ronald Davies from NBC, and the next will be Mr. Goran Opacic from the Yugoslav TANJUG news agency.

[Davies—in English] Mr. President, in the last few days representatives of Lebanon's Hizballah and also a number of representatives from the Palestine Liberation Organization, General Command [as heard] have been in Iran. Is there hope for a solution to the issue of the hostages, whether Iranian or Palestinian? The second question is that a U.S. investigative committee has conducted certain investigations and has concluded that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, affiliated to the Palestine Liberation Organization, was responsible for the downing of the Pan Am aircraft and

has described—has accused Iran [interpreter corrects himself] and it is said that Iran also paid a certain amount of money toward this.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As regards the presence of Hizballah in Iran this is their home and they can come here at any time they like and take part in various ceremonies. However, there is no connection between them and the issue of hostage-taking. Those who have taken the hostages are not known; neither Hizballah know them nor we. But one can get in touch with them through certain intermediaries. Of course, many of them are of the Muslims of Lebanon, Palestine, or elsewhere. Regarding the issue of the freeing of hostages, the Lebanese have demonstrated that they are more responsible than official western governments, especially the Americans; because they freed two hostages without any preconditions, but the Americans adopted an arrogant and unprincipled stance.

Regarding the downed U.S. aircraft, there have been many such investigations and always, after a period of time, they have contradicted their findings. I think that the Americans have a bad conscience for having downed our civilian aircraft over the Persian Gulf and martyring 300 innocent passengers; and such allegations which link us with that issue is the creation of their own imagination or is due to their mischief. You, the U.S. mass media, should perform your duty toward your people and clarify the ugliness and the evil nature of the downing of a civilian aircraft. They know, they confess that they committed an unforgivable crime.

Despite such issues, which seek to overshadow that crime, world public opinion will not accept this, and this disgrace will remain in America's history.

[Moderator] Mr. Goran Opacic from TANJUG news agency. Next will be the representative of CNN [words indistinct].

[Opacic—in English] Your Excellency, would you be so kind as to tell us whether Iran will give answers to the questions which have been posed by Iraq, especially regarding Iraq's question about the Arvand-Rud.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Why is it that you say Iraq has posed certain questions? There are no questions in the letter [from Saddam Husayn]. Iraq has requested that we sit quickly together outside the UN framework and solve our differences. For us there are two possibilities: One is that the Iraqis really are thinking of putting an end to this period of neither war nor peace, due to the difficulties that they have. Another possibility, that they do not really desire this, but they simply wish to rid themselves of the pressure which is exerted on them by world public opinion through the [UN] resolution, and to weaken the secretary general and the resolution. AS we are faced with both possibilities, we answered the letter in order to demonstrate and prove that we are really in favor of peace, so that we can make use of this channel too if it produces any results. At the same time, we believe that the secretary general and the Security Council should also be involved so that the resolution is not weakened. That channel is still in existence and the resolution is a good framework and good basis for the solution of the hostilities.

[Moderator] CNN [words indistinct] Judi Nurmohammadi. Next will be Mr. 'Attaran from Iranian television.

[Nurmohammadi in English] Mr. President, earlier you were asked about the hostages in Lebanon and you replied that the United States has made Iran's work difficult. In what way has the United States caused difficulties, and what would you like to see them do in this regard?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Because when the Lebanese freed the hostages without any preconditions, it was expected that they would be given a positive response in Israel, that their hostages would be freed, or that the hostages that they have in Kuwait, their prisoners there, whose release they have demanded, would be released; or, at least, that the Americans would not act in the sly and arrogant fashion in which they did, portraying themselves in such a way as through others are in need of them and it is due to their need that they have taken those steps. In any case, there was no positive point in America's response. At the same time, the Americans did a number of very bad things which makes the Muslims angry: 1. The U.S. Sentate issued a resolution which recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital. There is a great deal of pressure by the Americans on the Russians to expand Jewish emigration to Palestine. America has unjustly vetoed the Security Council resolution. This was the 60th veto by the United States which are mainly against the interests of the Arab and Islamic world. Your propaganda is also geared to promoting the idea that all should win the satisfactions of the Americans, but the Americans are free to do whatever they like in the world.

[Moderator] Mr. 'Attaran from Iranian television, and next will be Mr. Askar Hakim from the Soviet Union.

['Attaran] Mr. President, it was announced recently that Iran wishes to make use of its membership in the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. Please let us know how we plan to make use of the assistance of that fund, and under what conditions. The second question concerns moving the political capital of the country, which has already been announced. Please let us know what steps are being taken in this regard.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Regarding the International Monetary Fund, this is nothing new. Since before the revolution we have had a quota there and we have a relatively strong presence in the Fund. Those who have a quota can make use of certain privileges. If there is any need we will always make use of them. In the past, too, after the revolution we made use of it once or twice. At the moment, we have no need to make use of the money from the Fund, but if we need to receive any funds from abroad this is among the better sources because we receive our own money, our own quota from there. Of

course, we keep that in reserve and if at any time there is a special issue or a special need we make use of it.

Regarding your second question, about the transfer of the political capital from Tehran, it has in principle been approved in the Supreme Urban Council. At the moment, executive officials are conducting studies and investigations into an appropriate place in the country. So far, we have not come to a decision about any particular place. This will be a long-term job. At first, we should find the spot. Then we should make plans; but it will come to pass some day.

[Moderator] Mr. Askar Hakim from Tajikistan is in the Soviet Union and the TEHRAN TIMES representative will be next.

[Hakim] Good day Your Excellency, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, if you would allow me, I have two questions. Some time has passed since your meeting with the soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev; what do you now think about the importance of that meeting? And again, could you please say what specific steps have been taken toward the implementation of agreements signed between the two countries? This was the first question. The second one is: You are aware that a delegation from the Republic of Tajikistan—which has a common language and culture with the people of Iran—is attending the ceremonies commemorating the anniversary of the demise of his holiness Imam Khomeyni. What is your opinion of the prospects for the development and growth of relations and friendship between Iran and Tajikistan?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] With regard to your first question, yes, my trip to the Soviet Union was a stimulus to developments between the two countries. Of course the basis of this was prepared by the letter which his excellency the imam wrote to Mr. Gorbachev. The agreements which we signed are progressing well in their implementation. As you are aware, our gas line has become active and we have been delivering gas to you for one or two months now at an acceptable level—about 6 million cubic meters of gas is being delivered. And we have prepared ourselves for the expansion of this line. Several projects among those that have been agreed on are being implemented. Preliminary work on one or two dams over the Aras river has been done. Work is in progress on the Esfahan steel complex to reach full capacity, and on several power stations to expand these. And there are other projects. I think that our political, military, cultural, and border relations, our border exchanges are on the way to expansion and we are extremely keen on the question of cooperation with Tajikistan and the rest of the Muslim-inhabited republics of the Soviet Union. We welcome any kind of opening which may come about in relations between us and these republics. Fortunately, we have made a lot of progress in these past seven or eight months as you can see by the presence of your people at the ceremonies commemorating the anniversary of the demise of his excellency, the imam.

[Moderator] Mr. Piruzi from the TEHRAN TIMES. Next will be the representative from THE INDEPENDENT.

[Piruzi] Your Excellency the President, taking note that in the past two months we were witness to a fall in oil prices, does your government intend to review foreign exchange income and expenditure in the Five-Year Plan? This was the first question. The second is: Bearing in mind that it is highly unlikely that Iranian pilgrims will go to Saudi Arabia under present circumstances, will your government still pay attention to the question of resuming relations with Saudi Arabia after the hajj issue? Will there by any negotiations?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] With regard to the Five-Year Plan, no, we do not have any problems. These ups and downs in the price of oil and other things were forecast. These minor discrepencies will not have any fundamental impact on the plan and, fortunately, we are moving along the right path in implementing our program. All dimensions of the work are advancing well.

Regarding relations with Saudi Arabia [Arabestan], our policy is to have relations and cooperation with all countries in the region, including Saudi Arabia. The main obstacle is the hajj problem and Saudi Arabia's obstructionism. We will continue our endeavors to solve both the hajj issue and that of establishing relations with Saudi Arabia.

[Moderator] Mr. John Bulloch from THE INDEPENDENT, the British newspaper, THE INDEPENDENT. Next, Mr. Adamu, from Nigeria.

[Indian Television journalist--in English—questioner as heard] Mr. President, I am (Jaswinda Singh) from Indian Television. Recently, the Iranian Government criticized India's handling of the Kashmir issue and it is being insinuated in India that the Iranians are supporting the struggles of the people of Kashmir. And the second question is that if the Muslims of Britain compromise in some way over the Salman Rushdie case and come to some agreement, would this agreement be acceptable to you?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] With regards the question of India and Kashmir, we acted upon our declared policy, that is, we asked India not to treat the Kashmiri people badly and to abide by United nations resolutions in the case of Kashmir. We do not consider that hostilities in Kashmir are to India's benefit. India was among countries with which we had friendly relations from the time of the revolution and we still do. We do not want to see any deterioration in our relations with India. We shall try to maintain good relations. But the Kashmir issue is a serious one and I will emphasize again that treating people who want freedom aggressively is not right. They are Muslims and are prepared to die for their religion.

In connection with Salman Rushdie and the book The Satanic Verses: What Iran has done is to declare what is God's command; our imam declared what he judged to

be God's command. This was our task and we fulfilled it. The question as to what will happen next—what the people of Britain, the Muslims of Britain, and the Government of Britain should do, or what they should do with Salman Rushdie—this is now their own responsibility.

[Moderator] Now we have Mr. Adamu, from the Nigerian magazine BLOOM, I think. And Mr. William (Redcar) from ABC Television, next.

[Adamu—in English] The conditions set by Iran for participation in hajj ceremonies will not be acceptable to Saudi Arabia. The demonstrations by Iranians will not be acceptable for that country. Therefore, the Iranians will probably never be able to participate in those ceremonies. If this issue is resolved in some way, what actions will the Iranian Government take in order to prevent incidents similar to those that occured in Mecca?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We do not think that we have unacceptable conditions because staging demonstrations does not in any way harm the security of Saudi Arabia, as it did not for many years. The incidents then were preplanned, and we think that it was by the order of the U.S. Government, since this occurred at the same time as the Americans entered the war against us in the Persian Gulf. That is to say, they were preparing the way for their entry. I think that one day Saudi Arabia will come to its senses and will concede to Islam's interest; and it will accept that shouting slogans against Israel, against its backers, and against America—or against any country which backs Israel—at the hajj is in the interest of the Islamic world, and it is in line with the objectives and aspirations of that world. World public opinion will force Saudi Arabia to accept that issue. We do not think that we will be deprived of the hajj for long.

[Moderator] Mr. William (Redcar) from ABC Television. Next will be a representative from the British ITN.

[(Redcar)—in English] I heard you twice accuse the United States of having acted in an irresponsible way toward the release of two U.S. hostages, thereby adopting an arrogant posture. In your opinion, do you think that any measures will be taken in future in relation to the release of hostages? And as you are aware, Washington has a long memory about its hostages in Iran, that is relating to the U.S. Embassy in Iran. How far is all this talk rhetoric? To what extent will it be put into practice?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] What talk?

[(Redcar)—in English] To what degree is what you have been saying today rhetoric—for instance, when you say that the United States has acted in an irresponsible way and that it has adopted an arrogant posture? Are some of these remarks aimed merely at satisfying the domestic political opposition, that is to say the hardline faction? Or do these things actually come into practice?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] No. We are serious in what we say. If the United States is interested and if its policies are aimed at the release of hostages then the way is paved for that purpose. I ask you in your capacity as a reporter—and forget that you are an American, just think that you are a free human being—what is the problem with releasing those people who were kidnapped in an oppressive manner from Lebanon and taken to Israeli prisons? You answer that! If this occurs the process of releasing hostages will continue.

[(Redcar)—in English] I can only say that my role here is that of a reporter, and I have not come here to gather information for the decision-making machinery of the U.S. Government.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] That is no problem. You can speak for a while as a free human being.

[(Redcar)—in English] I am never a free person when I work for this organization. [laughter]

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Very well, my logic is clear. That is to say that we are really serious. You do admit that Israel can be put under pressure by the United States. And you also agree—you cannot possibly disagree—that when some oppressed Lebanese people—about 400 to 500 of them—are kidnapped from their own lands and then imprisoned in Israeli jails this is tyranny and it is against international norms. Five hundred Lebanese Muslims against five or six U.S. hostages. Why is it that you and the public opinion do not bring pressure to bear for the release of those hostages, so that all western hostages may be released?

[(Redcar)—in English] Mr. President, if this occurs, and the two sides resolve the issue of their hostages in some way, how do you view the future of Iranian-U.S. bilateral relations?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] America has real problems in Iran. That is to say that our public opinion is very angry with America, and they intensely hate it. This is because of the bad moves made by America here both before and after the victory of the Islamic revolution. If the Americans are interested in having relations with Iran one day, they must start by deeds. Nothing can be achieved by mere words. For a while they will have to make up for the ugly things that they did, so as to influence our public opinion.

[(Redcar)—in English] I have many more questions, but we'll have to do that at some future date.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In any case, be a free reporter. We tell our reporters to be free and to tell people what they really understand.

[(Redcar)—in English] I'll remember that. Thank you. [laughter]

[Moderator] Next the representative from ITN television. And then after that Mr. (Qazi) from UPI.

[Unidentified ITN correspondent—in English] Forgive me for returning to a question that has already been asked, about Imam Khomeyni's fatwa [edict] on Rushdie. That fatwa has once again been reaffirmed. However, it appears from what your excellency is saying that if Mrs. Thatcher in some way, using certain phrases, condemns it then you will agree to lift the fatwa, to withdraw it. Is that so? And the second point: If Iran and Britain arrive at a solution, then will the resumption of ties between the two countries help the release of the British hostages?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As to the first question, you have confused two topics in your mind. You have made a mistake. We said the issue would be solved depending on Britain abiding by the decision of the Majles. Then the difficulty of our relationship with Britain will be solved. As for Salman Rushdie; the view [nazar] expressed by his eminence the imam cannot be withdrawn by anybody. That was a view which he announced in keeping with the verdict of God; he did so in his capacity as a mojtahed [qualified Islamic theologian] and as the ruler of the world of Islam—the Islamic Government of Iran. Nobody can withdraw that verdict [hokm]. The Westerners make a mistake by insisting that we withdraw it. No such right is given to us.

[Moderator] Next is the correspondent from KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL.

[Unidentified KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL correspondent] My question concerns the line of the imam. I would be grateful if you could clarify several points. The understanding of the foreign press of the imam's line follows these points—stress on the independence of Iran, strengthening the principles of the Islamic Republic and especially neither East nor West. If you have anything to add to that I would be grateful. Now that the two poles of East and West have come closer together and their talks and contacts have increased, do you think the principle of neither east nor west will still be successful? And then, as to the line of the imam, last Thursday [31 May], you yourself said that approaches to his statements must be done in very general terms. Please express your views.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As to your first question: The line of the imam is confined to the two or three points which you just mentioned. Well, the imam has expressed opinions on almost all the problems of the country. He has expressed views on economic, political, cultural, foreign policy, and domestic issues, with regard to Muslims of the world and to the liberation movements, and many other topics such as reaction and Zionism. Regarding all these topics the imam has given us instructions which must be taken into account as a package.

That is also my second point. I did not say that you should approach the imam's statements in a very general way [kheyli kolli]. I said you should approach them in a comprehensive way [jame'e]. Nobody should grasp on a specific part of the imam's remarks to justify himself or his group. The imam's statements must serve as our yardstick in the form of a package; we must pay respect to all the thoughts of the imam. As to the policy of neither east nor west, the essence of it is that our country must not submit either to the domination of East or of the West. When we used to say East and West we meant Marxists and the Westerners; the communists and the capitalists. We were neither subject to communists nor to capitalists. We adopted independent policies in our foreign relations, in our domestic issues, in the economy and culture. We had our own stance. Adopting such a stance does not mean that those policies are at variance with being neither Eastern nor Western. We have had ties with both the East and the West. Well, at the top of the East stood Russia; the imam wrote that all-embracing letter to Mr. Gorbachev. Anyway, relationships are not the issue. What is at stake is their dominance and their influence which may penetrate our policies.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani: The governments of the United States and Britain have officially announced—in reply to Iran's request concerning the circumstances of Iranian hostages in Lebanon—that these four hostages have been killed. Iran's foreign minister has repeatedly announced that these hostages are still alive. What evidence does Tehran have to verify that these Iranian hostages are alive? This was my first question. My second question is: What are your views on the [planned] British parliamentary delegation's trip to Iran?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Concerning your first question. We received information from a government—officially—just in these past weeks, saying that according to reliable sources in East Beirut, our hostages are alive. The documentary weight of this is more for us than what the Americans have said because a specific government conveyed this to us via a special envoy.

With regard to the British parliamentary delegation's [planned] trip to Iran, this is the concern of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. If the Majles accepts to act as host to that delegation there is no problem as far as the government is concerned; and if the Majles does not accept then we too would not object to this [the Majles not accepting such a delegation].

[Moderator calls indistinct names]

[Unidentified correspondent—in English] Mr. President, before the Islamic revolution, Iran sought to play the role of the policeman in the Gulf. Now that the war has ended what future role will Iran play in the region? The second question: How far has there been progress in the reconstruction of the country, and to what extent will you make use of countries of the Persian Gulf littoral for this task?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We are in principle against one government interfering in [the affairs of] another government, in another country; and we are against anyone

playing the role of policeman in an region. We want to cooperate with the countries of the region on the basis of good, reciprocal relations.

As to reconstruction, we are moving forward in accordance with the Five-Year Plan and we believe that the plan has been drawn up in a realistic manner. The process of implementation of our important projects has been speeded up and preparations for other important projects have been made. We have not made use of the countries of the region up to now; we may do so if circumstances require it later.

[Moderator] Mr. Haghdust from the Iranian daily ISLAMIC REPUBLIC [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI]; and next will be China's XINHUA news agency.

[Haghdust] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. With thanks to Your Excellency who has replied patiently to questions posed from my colleagues up to now. I have two questions about domestic issues. Recently, his eminence, Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader, invited people to assist in the task of reconstruction. Bearing in mind that the government will be supervising this, how will it channel these donations? My second question is: In the last session you talked about improving the administrative system and eliminating bureaucracy. Have there been any achievements in this direction?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Regarding people's participation in reconstruction, we repeated those same things we said in the past and which were also emphasized by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. One [concern] was problems related to the reconstruction of war-stricken regions, and Tehran's inhabitants have been invited to assist Khorramshahr. The other [concern] was the general projects in which people should invest actively, use their talents and expertise and, in short, cooperate with the policies of the government: Here the leader's support can be effective.

With regard to your second question: We talked about this in several Cabinet meetings. The State Organization for Civil Service and Administrative Affairs submitted a plan which was passed, in turn to all [state] bodies and the latter had two and a half months to study it and express their views on it. The plan has recently been passed back to the government. A new committee has been set up and is collecting the views expressed by all the bodies and I think that we should continue like this until we can detect our strong and weak points and gradually reform these.

[Moderator] Now, as the XINHUA representative is not here, may I ask our ABRAR Iranian daily representative to ask questions. And next ETTELA'AT.

[ABRAR correspondent] May you not be tired. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, among the last news heard last night—when the East-West leaders' summit ended, Mr. Perez de Cuellar met with Bush and it was declared that they would also talk about the [Iran-Iraq peace] negotiations. What do you think about this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] About what?

[ABRAR correspondent] About how the Iran-Iraq talks and Resolution 598 are proceeding?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I don't know what they have talked about yet but, our general view is that the [UN] resolution is the axis for solving issues between ourselves and Iraq and we must make use of this same axis.

[Moderator] [name indistinct] of ETTELA'AT and next will be Mr. [name indistinct] from Poland.

[ETTELA'AT correspondent] In the name of God. Mr. President, my question concerns people's economic problems. Without doubt, high prices and inflation are, at present, people's main problems. The rise in prices and the high cost of commodities are increasing daily and this is causing more difficulties for people. My question is why have you not yet succeeded in fully controlling inflation, in practice, and has your government got any fresh plans and programs to eliminate this problem.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Regarding inflation, we think that the program that has begun to be implemented has been completely succesful. The criteria of our movement is clear: Among the reasons for inflation in our country are, shortages of goods and large supplies of cash in people's hands. We have plans for both these factors that are causing inflation and have started working on these. Concerning shortages of goods, we have given enough foreign exchange to our industries and to our agricultural sector; production is growing fast and according to the statistics we have, there is an acceptable level of growth in most cases and the market will feel the impact of more commodities in the course of the next three to four months—the effect has already begun. We have taken certain steps to mop up liquidity [as heard] and from the start of our work up to now we have mopped up approximately 200 billion tomans [one toman = 10 rials] of this liquidity through selling foreign currency at competitive and free rates of exchange for the production and import of certain goods. With this mopping up of liquidity and increasing more goods in the market, the factors causing inflation will be removed. But when you say that [inflation] is rising—no! The rise is being controlled, according to the figures we obtained from the market, from those who know the market. There has been a fall of between 60 to 20 percent, in some cases up to 10 percent in the price of most of those goods which have been produced in larger quantities. Of coure the goods are not in such plentiful supply but it is getting better by the day. We have almost cut off the link between the free [black] market rate of exchange and goods, that is, at present, most of the goods are being sold at the rate of exchange controlled by the government. An insignificant section of goods—luxury goods—which are smuggled in by travellers—are linked to the free rate of exchange. The rate of inflation in recent years has been

about 28 percent [per annum]; it is now less than 20 percent and we hope that this will fall further. Of course this will take time.

[ETTELA'AT correspondent] My second question is related to the restoration of relations between Iran and Canada. There has been a rumor recently that Iran and Canada have solved many of their problems and are in the process of restoring relations....:

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani, interrupting] Canada?

[Correspondent] Canada—and some people think that this can act as a first step toward restoration of relations between Iran and the United States. What do you think of this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We did not sever relations with Canada—it stood at the level of charge d'affaires, up to now, and recently it was elevated to ambassadorial levels and [relations] have expanded a bit. This has nothing to do with relations with the United States save that it [Canada] is the United States' neighbor.

[Moderator] Mr. [word indistinct] from Poland has no questions, I ask Mr. 'Ali As'ad from the BBC Arabic Service please.

['Ali As'ad] Mr. President, political observers anticipate that Iraq is under an imminent attack by Israel. What is the Islamic Republic's stance on that? Are you prepared to help Iraq? And how? Also how do you see the Islamic Republic's future ties with Arab countries?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] About the first question, we do not think that way. No serious enmity exists between Israel and Iraq. The country that Israel and its masters have serious enmity toward is Iran. That has been proved in practice and we have seen it in many cases. At the next level stands Syria, the world of Islam's true fort against Israel. The Iraqis have never been seriously engaged in confrontation against Israel. What is taking place is a politico-propaganda move. The Islamic Republic will assist any country that engages in serious confrontation against Israel, be it Arab, Islamic, or any other country.

['Ali As'ad] Mr. President, how do you see future relations between the Islamic Republic and Egypt in particular?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] About Egypt, we are truly interested to have relations with the people of Egypt. But the issue that caused us to cut our ties with Egypt still remains. In Camp David Egypt committed a great treason against the world of Islam and against the Arab world and the aspirations of the Palestinians. For that reason we cut our ties with Egypt and Egypt still is carrying on with the same policy. Egypt is different from other Arab countries. With its treason Egypt removed many Arab countries from the stage of struggle against Israel.

[Moderator] We have two gentlemen from Lebanon. The first is (?Ahmad Zabiyan) from the magzine SABAH AL-KHAYR, and the second will be Wasif 'Awadah.

[(?Zabiyan)—in Arabic] What is your assessment of Lebanon's future and will you help toward a resolution of the situation there? Would your help toward the release of a number of Western hostages in Lebanon be within the same framework or not? The second question, what was the subject of Yasir 'Arafat's letter sent to you on mediation between Iran and Iraq?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes. On the issue of Lebanon, we see the presence of forces in Lebanon, who despite being in a minority, seek to govern—like the Phalangists—as the main problem there. We also know that the West supports that idea. We think the problem can be resolved when the people of Lebanon are able to govern their own affairs. Control over Lebanon should be handed over to people of Lebanon, as in other democratic countries. The second problem is the danger of Israel and its disturbances in Lebanon which has caused problems there. That issue also should be resolved through regional and international cooperation. Our help toward the release of the hostages is both for the resolution of the problem of Lebanon and for humanitarian reasons. In any case from a humanitarian point of view that [hostage-taking] is not an appropriate act. What was their second question? [unidentified person says Yasir 'Arafat's letter]

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani continues] Together with Saddam's letter, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat also sent a letter and stressed the same issues in a different form, and we replied saying that most of the attention should be paid to the problem of Palestine and we should be serious in our struggle against Israel.

[Moderator] Wasyif 'Awadah from Lebanese television.

['Awadah—in Arabic] Mr. President, why has the Islamic Republic of Iran thus far been unable to resolve the confrontations between the Amal [Movement] and Hizballah and are there any new practical moves in that regard or not?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We are seriously interested in resolving that problem but our control there is not much. They themselves are free human beings who make decisions according to the circumstances there. We think some mischievous roots [of the conflict] exist there. Those who do not want the people of Lebanon to govern, they also ignite the flames of that fratricidal war, and I mention here that the Islamic Republic's view is that any drop of bloodshed in confrontations between Muslim in Lebanon is an act of treason against Islam. Nobody can be blessed by God who has cooperated in that bloodshed and there will be no excuse for them when facing God. We have also discussed the issue with Syria to cooperate and perhaps somehow we will be able to end that filthy confrontation between Muslims.

[Moderator] The very last name I have on my list is Mr. (?Faqihi) from the Persian daily KEYHAN.

[KEYHAN correspondent (?Faqihi)] With thanks to the president: What are your assessments of the recent Baghdad summit and why do you think there were slogans and issues raised in the summit against America and Israel by the Iraqi regime and some of the reactionary [pro-] American regimes?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani pauses, then asks the moderator to translate the question for the participants]

[Moderator] What is your assessment of the recent Baghdad summit? Why do you think the Iraqi regime and certain reactionary Arab regimes participating in that summit have chanted slogans against the United States and Israel?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] What we think is that the summit was mainly held for propaganda purposes and for rebuilding some Arab faces and not so much for, as claimed, for confrontation against the Israeli danger. If it was really meant to be for the struggle against Israel, then the absence of Syria and Lebanon who hold the biggest share in confrontation against Israel was [making it] meaningless. Why did they hold the conference somewhere where it was obvious that Syria and Lebanon would not go? The slogans which were chanted against America or some Western governments there were obviously not true. How can the participants, a number of shaykhs and sultans from the Persian Gulf, or Jordan for example, or Saudi Arabia or Kuwait whose ships still carry U.S. flags, chant slogans against America and mean it? Baghdad itself was found out to have received a great deal of U.S. aid, or on U.S. orders Arab money was put at its disposal during the war. Those who gathered in Baghdad cannot act seriously against America or Israel with that kind of spirits. Those who can [act seriously] were not participating in the summit.

Was that it? Right. Thank you very much to all of you who came to Iran and took part in this conference. We hope that you will always be successful in implementing your important duty given to you by the public media of spreading the truth and what is right, and we hope you are able to take positive steps in informing people.

Mohtashemi on West's Anti-Muslim Policy

NC0706151490 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 May 90 p 20

[Political commentary by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, Tehran Majles deputy]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Ever since the regimes ruling over Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and Palestine embarked on a long-term program of world apostasy 40 years ago and took steps to destroy the sites in Mecca, Medinah, and Palestine which have belonged to Islam from its beginning until now, the hajj traditions were also placed at the disposal of the powers of world arrogance to further U.S. objectives in the world of Islam. Thus, the heart which was to be used for the pumpage [preceding word in English] of the values of pure Mohammadan Islam and the blood of life and dynamism of Muslims was transformed into the means for injecting and extensively popularizing the campaign against those values. Instead of the love of God, the holy jihad in the path of God, and the disavowal of the pagans, there was a greater affinity for the arch-Satan and an inclination to turn one's back on the God of the Ka'abah, to move toward the United States, and all the manifestations of blasphemy and apostasy.

In such circumstances, the great leader of the revolution his eminence the imam dealt such a blow to sever the hands of the arch-Satan from the destiny of the pulsating heart of Islam and the Muslims that it was like a sledgehammer to the forehead and a slap on the cheek of the world-devouring United States. The Muslims of the world then witnessed the ensuing vertigo of the Saudi regime and the occupied Jerusalem regime and its other lackey regimes such as Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco and others, and the red marks consequently imprinted on their faces.

For want of anything better, the world devourers found no recourse but to massacre the risen Muslims, to drag the PLO leaders who had sold out to the humiliating table of "direct talks" in order to denigrate and demean the Palestinian revolution on the one hand and to consolidate the sovereignty of Saudi regime for repressing the rituals of the hajj of Abraham, contrary to divine injunctions, for the massacre of the pilgrims to the house of God, and to take revenge on the pure Mohammadan Islam on the other.

In his message calling for perseverance, his eminence the imam said: "Today the house of God is the same house but is not for the 'people.' It is for 'the United States.' Those who do not obey the United States but move toward the God of the Ka'abah deserve to be victims of revenge. [no closing quotation marks as published] This plot continues even after the death of the imam. Thus, the real enemy of the of the Islamic revolution and the Islamic nations and the oppressed is the United States. There is no greater danger for the world of Islam than the danger of the United States. His Eminence the Imam was right in his opinion that the real enemy is the United States and that all problems and difficulties stem from it. Until the hands of the United States are severed from the destiny of Islam and the Muslims, the struggle must continue.

Therefore, every plan which is implemented, except a struggle against the United States and any other slogan except that of "Death to America" and the warning of any impending threat except that of the United States, whether knowingly or out of sheer ignorance, would be tantamount to forgetting of the roots of and the reasons for the problems, which will result in deviating from the line of his eminence the imam and the revolution.

The existence of pure Mohammadan Islam, the freedom and security of the two holy mosques and of Palestine and Jerusalem depends on battling apostasy, carrying on

a struggle against the United States, and maintaining of a revolutionary and wrathful stance against the usurpist Palestinian and the Saudi regimes. With the defeat of the United States, the links of its chains binding the Hejaz, Palestine, and American-style Islam will also be broken. [passage omitted]

With hopes of victory for the oppressed over the oppressors.

*Replacement of Tehran Mayor Denied

90AS0059A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] Following the rumor of the replacement of Karbaschi, the mayor of Tehran, an informed source in Tehran City Hall strongly denied the rumor to our correspondent and mentioned the profiteers whose interests have been threatened by the decisions of the City Hall as the main spreaders of such rumors. One of the officials of the Ministry of Interior also strongly denied the replacement of the Tehran mayor to our correspondent and pointed out:

The activities of Karbaschi during his tenure at Tehran City Hall are significant and have the approval of the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

*Construction of 60-Foot Floating Dock Begins

90AS0059B Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 22 Apr 90 p 2

[Interview with industries deputy of the Foundation of the Oppressed and Disabled, Bonyad-e Mostaz'afan va Janbazan; date and place not specified]

[Text] Economic service:

For the first time in Iran, a company has begun the construction of a 60-foot floating dock under the supervision of the Foundation of the Oppressed and the Disabled.

The industries deputy of the Foundation of the Oppressed and Disabled announced in an interview: The naval equipment production and distribution company, under the supervision of the Foundation, for the first time engaged in building a 60-foot floating fiberglass dock which meets international standards.

He added: With the construction of this floating dock, in addition to aiding in the self-sufficiency of the country, significant resources will be created for increased fishing, and a significant part of the needs of fishermen will be eliminated.

According to this official, the first floating dock of this kind, which is now in production, will be 18 meters long, and if the needed foreign currency is provided, the annual production of this type of floating dock will be four per year.

*Mohtaj Named Commander of Naval Forces

90AS0059C Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 19 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] Upon the proposal of Admiral Shamkhani, the commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic, and the recommendation of the grand leader, Engineer 'Abbas Mohtaj was appointed acting commander of the naval forces.

According to IRNA, the ceremonies for the introduction of the acting commander of the naval forces of the Islamic Republic were held yesterday morning in the presence of Dr. Firuzabadi, the commander-in-chief of the armed forces; Hojjat ol-Eslam Safa'i, the representative of the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult] and head of the ideological-political agency of the army; the joint chief of staff of the navy; a high-ranking commander of the army and the Guard Corps; and a number of clerics.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Movahhedi-Kermani, the head of the ideological-political office of the central command of the armed forces, spoke in these ceremonies about commandership in Islam, the advancement of the goals of the Islamic revolution, and also the necessity of the armed forces being as prepared as possible, particularly the navy.

It should be pointed out that Second Admiral 'Abbas Mohtaj was commander of the operational headquarters of the south and west of the country and head of the general headquarters of the Guard Corps. His last position was as acting commander of the infantry of the Guard Corps, to which he was appointed by the Grand Leader.

*Need To Collect Firearms From People Stressed

90AS0059D Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Apr 90 p 2

[Interview with General Gudarzi, Acting General Commander of the Gendarmerie, in Andimeshk by KEYHAN; date not specified]

[Text] **Andimeshk—KEYHAN correspondent: The Majles or the Security Council of the country must appoint an organization to carry out the task of collecting firearms from the crime-ridden areas.**

This statement was made by General Gudarzi, the acting general commander of the gendarmerie, in an interview with KEYHAN after the opening of the gendarmerie regiment of Andimeshk. He added: If an institution or organization is given this mission, it can carry out the task of collecting the firearms directly and independently. In dealing with obvious offenses, whenever it notices that someone has a weapon, the gendarmerie takes action and is not negligent in this regard. The statistics on the gendarmerie's discovery of firearms and ammunition so far have been significant.

In regard to dealing with outlaws and smugglers, he said: The gendarmerie will use all its power in dealing with smugglers.

The acting general commander of the gendarmerie said in regard to strengthening the guard stations in the crime-ridden areas: Wherever the gendarmerie determines or the local authorities or the people request that there is a need for strengthening, despite the shortages that exist, whether by transferring or by providing personnel from the regiments, from other areas or from the gendarmerie headquarters, these needs will be met.

He referred to the Andimeshk area and said: Andimeshk was an example of such cases. We hope to be able to strengthen this regiment in terms of both personnel and equipment.

*Many Reportedly Wounded, Arrested in Skirmishes

90AS0079B London KEYHAN in Persian
17 May 90 pp 1-2

[Text] In the violent skirmishes which took place on Thursday, 20 Ordibehesht (10 May), throughout Ferdowsi Street between the people of Tehran and the guards of the Islamic Revolutionary Committee, a number of people and guards were wounded, and a group of men and women who had stood up to the guards were arrested.

The skirmishes began at 11 AM in front of the large Melli Bank building on Ferdowsi Street, near Eslambol Square. At this time, the guards and agents of the committee for fighting prohibited acts had stopped men and women not observing Islamic veiling. But wiping makeup from the faces of women and rubbing dye on the hands and arms of men wearing short-sleeved shirts resulted in public resistance and turned into serious fighting.

According to a reliable report received by KEYHAN (London) on the same Thursday, the resistance of women who had been attacked by the committee guards and agents for fighting prohibited acts was so strong that the guards were not prepared to deal with it.

After the start of the skirmishes and fights in front of Melli Bank on Ferdowsi Street, most passersby came to the aid of the women and engaged in fearlessly fighting the guards.

Since various units of guards were creating problems for men and women on various parts of Ferdowsi Street, which was crowded at that time of the day, the subsequent fight of the people with them spread throughout Ferdowsi Street and was escalated at Eslambol Square in front of the British Embassy (at the beginning of Manuchehri Street) and on Ferdowsi Square.

According to the available report, the people did not run away as they had done at other times, and even those who had come to help the women remained fearlessly on the street to the end.

There is no precise report about those arrested, but an eyewitness reported dozens of wounded and a large number of people arrested by the guards at the end of the skirmishes.

Following the incident on 20 Ordibehesht [10 May], the officials of the regime, who had faced the strong resistance of the people, announced that the courts would examine the cases of those arrested on Thursday of the regular schedule.

New Regulations

The news of the implementation of new regulations starting Thursday, 20 Ordibehesht [10 May], had been announced by Islamic Republic officials two weeks earlier. (We published a report on this last week.) But people, particularly women, did not consider it important.

In an announcement issued on Wednesday, coinciding with the start of the new restrictions, the Ministry of Interior warned that the plan to control people's behavior would be implemented even on the mountains and in public parks starting the following morning.

In this announcement, the owners of private establishments, such as shops, stores, boutiques, private companies, travel agencies, health and beauty salons, restaurants, hotels, and health and treatment centers, were warned that they were charged with the responsibility of implementing the cleansing regulations for private places and that if they were seen to be negligent in observing public rules and morality in the place belonging to them, they would be severely punished.

The announcement stated that the guards of the Islamic committee were instructed to arrest those who do not observe moral and religious rules.

The head of the general office of public places issued a circular letter asking all owners of businesses to avoid selling offensive clothing, insignias, and merchandise and clothing that displays decadent Western culture. Should they sell such items, their stores will be closed and the items confiscated.

In addition to numerous organizations that have issued communiques and announcements concerning fighting improper veiling, the special headquarters for fighting improper veiling and manifestations of corruption in Tehran Province also issued a communique announcing: "Men and women who, despite guiding reminders, continue to disregard the regulations of the culture ruling the Islamic society by not making use of proper clothing will be dealt with to the extent of the law."

The special headquarters for fighting improper veiling and manifestations of corruption of Tehran Province stated in a press communique on Wednesday, 12 Ordibehesht [2 May], that the agents carrying out the rules are responsible for dealing legally with men and women who are dressed improperly or have an improper appearance

and sending them to the related center for prosecution. This headquarters stated that appearing in public places and in public view without observing proper veiling and with makeup in a flaunting and offensive form contrary to public chastity, such as wearing reveling clothing, tight or short pants, net or sheer stockings by women, and tight-sleeved, open-collar or see-through shirts by men, is prohibited and considered a crime. The communique of the special headquarters for fighting improper veiling and manifestations of corruption of Tehran Province also stated that the use of clothing and items that have offensive designs, phrases, pictures, or signs belonging to groups and publications that are known to be corrupt or whose ideology is contrary to the values of the Islamic revolution is prohibited, and the guards of the Islamic Revolutionary Committee are responsible for dealing with the violators.

Pressure to observe absolute Islamic veiling began a few months ago by the fanatical Islamic groups, and once again marches led by Zahra Mostafavi, the daughter of Ayatollah Khomeyni, were held in Tehran.

The representatives of the Majles also regularly gave warnings in this regard, but the cautious members of the regime, who are well aware of the people's discontent with the conditions, had thus far avoided imposing pressure in this regard. The text of the new regulations implemented starting last Thursday has not been published, but the communiques, announcements, and interviews by officials of the regime indicate that these regulations give an even freer hand to the guards to create problems and restrictions for the people.

Avoiding the Continuation of Problems

Following the skirmishes between the people of Tehran and the guards last Thursday, the agents of the regime and the guards of the committees have temporarily stopped troubling and being strict in regard to women's veiling and men's clothing and have since early this week removed their strike forces from the streets.

The most recent passengers to arrive from Tehran say that the people are determined to stand against the imposed rules of the regime and force the regime to retreat.

The official announcement issued by the regime about the arrest of women quoted by IRNA indicates that 20 people were arrested for not observing Islamic veiling.

*Iran, EC Begin Direct Talks in Dublin 17 May

90AS0079H London KEYHAN in Persian
17 May 90 p 1

[Text] Following the agreement of the European Common Market to the request of the Islamic Republic to carry out negotiations concerning the improvement of relations between the 12 countries which are members of the market and the Islamic Republic, negotiations between the representatives of both sides began on Wednesday of this week (16 May) in the city of Dublin, the capital of Southern Ireland. In these negotiations, on the side of the countries of the European Common Market, the representatives of France, Southern Ireland, and Italy participated. The representative of Southern Ireland is the present president of the European Common Market. The representative of France was the president of the Common Market in the previous session, and the representative of Italy will assume this position next year.

In the negotiations between the two sides, in addition to the general relations of the 12 members of the European Common Market with the Islamic Republic, the issue of the Western hostages in Lebanon will certainly be discussed.

The spokesman of the Irish president of the Common Market announced last Thursday in Brussels that these negotiations will take place on the request of the Islamic Republic in order to unite the policies of the 12 member countries of the Common Market in regard to the international issues.

Gerard Collins, the foreign minister of Southern Ireland, who had met and talked two weeks ago with 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic in New York, sent a written message to Velayati expressing hope that the meeting of the representatives of both sides in Dublin can play an effective role in expanding the relations between Iran and the European economic society. The message of the foreign minister of Southern Ireland to Velayati was submitted to Va'ezi, the political deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, last Thursday by the attache of that country.

The prestigious FINANCIAL TIMES, published in London, writes that considering its dire need for financial credit and economic and technical help from the West, the regime of the Islamic Republic is in serious need of a positive outcome to the Dublin negotiations.

The TIMES also emphasized that in the two-day negotiations in Dublin, the Islamic Republic was told explicitly that if it expects an improvement in relations with Western Europe, it must use its influence in Lebanon to affect the release of the Western hostages.

In the course of the Dublin negotiations, none of the foreign ministers of the European Common Market countries have been present, but the three representatives of the Common Market are in constant contact with them from the "Dublin Palace."

The agreement of the European Common Market to accept the representatives of the regime of the Islamic Republic took place one day after the news of the financial agreement between the U.S. government and the regime of the Islamic Republic in the Hague was announced, during which the U.S. government agreed to settle the financial claims concerning 2,300 cases of less than $250,000 by accepting $105 million from the

Islamic Republic and at the same time paying $400,000 for the settlement of 1,078 small claims by the Islamic Republic.

Nepal

Bhattarai Interviewed on Upcoming Indian Visit

BK0706074790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0720 GMT 7 Jun 90

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, June 7 (AFP)—Nepal's Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai leaves here Friday [8 June] for New Delhi in what he says will be an attempt to end coolness in bilateral ties and instill confidence at leadership level between the two countries.

"I am not going to New Delhi to sign any treaties on trade and transit nor on any other issue," he said in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. "I simply want to build up confidence and friendship in the minds of the Indian leaders."

The two countries have been at loggerherads over trade and transport issues since India last year slapped a trade blockade on Nepal, effectively reducing to a trickle both imports and exports of its landlocked northern neighbor from Indian ports.

Mr. Bhattarai blamed in part the partyless Panchayat system that has been in force in Nepal over the past three decades for the mistrust between the leaders of the two neighbors. "Under 30 years of panchayat, the leaders of the two countries lost confidence in each other," he said. "This mistrust and lack of confidence has created the present problem and has harmed both countries."

Mr. Bhattarai was named head of Nepal's current coalition government, formed after violent demonstrations earlier this year against the panchayat system.

Announcing the suspension of a remaining 10 percent of Chinese arms and military equipment imports due for delivery by mid-June, Mr. Bhattarai asserted that "as in the past, the present coalition democratic government does not want to play China against India and vice versa."

"We do not want to benefit from the India-China quarrel," he said.

Mr. Bhattarai was asked if he planned to make any commitments to India during his visit on matters of national security. "If India fully guarantees our national independence, national integrity and sovereignty as it is today, we would not allow anything to threaten the national security of India," he replied.

On the ongoing quarrel between the two countries, Mr. Bhattarai said he was going to New Delhi "with full confidence that India will agree to solve the current trade and transit impasse, which I believe has affected the people of both countries."

"Many of the Indian markets across Nepal's southern border (depend on Nepal), and the Nepalese living in low and tropical regions depend on Indian markets," he said. "Therefore why should not good trade relationship between the two countries be restored?"

He said Nepal expected India to agree to restore bilateral trade and transit ties to the situation before March 23, 1989, when New Delhi slapped a trade ban on Nepal. But as head of an interim government, Mr. Bhattarai said, he would sign no accords with India, leaving that to the government that will be voted in after after general elections due to be held by mid-May 1991.

The trade balance between the two was in Nepal's favour in the past, he said, "but now, we import everything from India ... We want the trade and transit relations to be restored normally and help ease Nepal's great economic dificulties." He was optimistic that the situation would improve, saying that "in the minds of the Nepalese people," there were no doubts that India would oppose an "amicable settlement of the current stalemate."

India's trade blockade and imposition of customs duties of 100 to 140 percent on Nepalese exports has resulted for Nepal in a trade deficit of more than 100 million dollars in the first eight months of the current fiscal year ending in mid-July, finance ministry sources said. The annual deficit is expected to reach nearly 158 million dollars, they said.

The blockade also resulted in losses estimated at nearly 88 million to 105 million dollars in revenue, production and economic services over the past 14 months, the sources said. As a result, Nepal imposed new duties on Indian imports and adopted a fiscal Policy that includes issuing import licences through a bidding system to beef up public coffers.

During his visit to Delhi, which will last until Sunday [10 June], Mr. Bhattarai will be accompanied by Commerce and Industry Minister Sahana Pradhan, Finance Minister Devendra Raj Pandey and the secretaries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Commerce and Tourism, officials said.

Premier Bhattarai Leaves for New Delhi 8 Jun

BK0806052890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0512 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] Kathmandu, June 8 (AFP)—Nepalese Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai left here Friday [8 June] for New Delhi for the first high-level talks between the two countries after a 14-month impasse on trade and transit issues.

"I am highly hopeful of success" in his talks with Indian Prime Minister Viswanath Pratap Singh, Mr. Bhattarai told reporters at the airport.

The head of Nepal's coalition government hopes to end a trade blockade India imposed on its landlocked northern neighbor in March 1989.

Mr. Bhattarai, heading a delegation of 18 officials, is scheduled to return home on Sunday [10 June].

Pakistan

Government Proposes Talks With India

BK0706122890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1213 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] Islamabad, June 7 (AFP)—Pakistan has proposed foreign secretary-level dialogue with India to discuss the "core issue" of Kashmir plaguing their relations, a foreign office spokesman Thursday [7 June] said. The foreign secretaries' meeting "should take place this month at a mutually convenient date," he said in response to an Indian package conveyed last week as "confidence building measures."

But the spokesman was also sceptical about the "much publicised" Indian troops withdrawal from the borders. The situation is "slightly better" in the south as the troops were in the process of redeployment to some new locations, but it had become "definitely darker" in the north of Punjab and Kashmir where the Indians have concentrated more forces, he added.

Commenting on the Indian proposals, concentrating mainly on exchange of information on troop movements and steps to prevent illegal border crossings, he said it did not contain reference to "what we consider the core issue" of Kashmir.

"The causes of the present tension between India and Pakistan are too well known to need elaboration," he said.

"The spontaneous and indigenous uprising of people of Kashmir, the extremely harsh repression of the Government of India, the tendency to blame Pakistan for Kashmiri resistance and the massing of Indian forces on Pakistan's borders cast a dark shadow of bilateral relations," he observed.

Stressing that the dialogue should be purposeful, the spokesman said ignoring the central issue would not resolve the problem.

Replying to a question, he said "there are no preconditions. It is a question of setting up of a "larger and broader agenda," he added.

He said mutual confidence can be restored if there was readiness to address the underlying causes of tension, he said. "There is no reason why India and Pakistan should fight shy of discussing the factors which have given rise to dangerous situation in the past and have the potential of jeopardising peace and security in this region time and again," he said.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir which they each claim.

Earlier Thursday [7 June] the Indian High Commission here rejected Pakistani press reports doubting the announced withdrawal of Indian armoured units from the border along Pakistan's ethnically troubled Sindh province. The High Commission (Embassy) said in a press statement that the Pakistan Government had been kept fully informed of the withdrawal from the Mahajan range in Rajasthan, through military and diplomatic chanels.

It said the pull back commenced on May 28 when India communicated to Islamabad its proposals for confidence building measures. Reports describing the Indian move as spurious or diversionary tactics were baseless and negatively motivated, the High Commission said. Such claims, it said, were inspired by those who wish to undermine the "painstaking endeavours" by the two governments to defuse current tensions and to overcome the "present critical phase" in Indo-Pakistan relations.

Spokesman: Indian Proposals Omit Kashmir Issue

BK0706162790 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] Pakistan has proposed a foreign secretary-level meeting with India within this month at a mutually agreed venue to begin discussions on removing the causes of the present tension between the two countries. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad this afternoon while briefing newsmen on recent Indian proposals on confidence-building measures. He said Pakistan was carefully examining these proposals. The spokesman said Pakistan has not given a formal agenda for the talks, but has given its reaction to the Indian proposals.

Replying to a question, he said the Indian proposals did not mention the issue of Kashmir. He said the Indian proposals include reaffirmation of the Simla agreement. Pakistan had no objection to this, provided India also reaffirmed the Simla agreement in its totality without bringing any change in its contents. The Indian proposals omit something from the original text of the Simla agreement.

Minister Presents Budget for Next Fiscal Year

BK0806025490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Jun 90

[All figures are as heard]

[Excerpts] The new federal budget which was announced at the National Assembly today [by Minister of State for Finance Ehsanul Haq Piracha] provides a number of concessions to industrial workers, government employees and pensioners. Loans will be provided to encourage the setting-up of industries in rural areas. Government employees have been given a 10 percent ad hoc increase and the minimum salary of industrial

workers has been increased to 1,100 rupees per month. Foundations will be set up for artists and the press and the allocation for the minorities fund will be increased. A self-assessment tax scheme is being initiated so as to enable tax payers to declare their correct income. Changes in taxes have been proposed to bridge the gap between revenue and expenditure, which include increases in telephone and electricity charges, passport fees and foreign travel fares. [passage omitted]

The minister said that the establishment of a Pakistan fund in is an important step in the investment sector which will encourage foreign investment in bonds. The fund will be for $50 million. The government will provide more than 113 million rupees for equity participation fund to promote industrial development.

Concluding his budget speech, Ehsanul Haq Piracha said that the revenue and expenditure gap in the budget amounting to 14.117 billion rupees will be met by taxes. Another 5.294 billion rupees will be met by improving the tax collection system and borrowing from banks.

An amount of 63 billion rupees have been allocated in the new budget for developmental activities, while 56 billion had been provided for the same purpose during the current fiscal year. The total tax revenue during next fiscal year is estimated at 175.406 billion rupees, while expenditure is estimated to be more than 161.779 billion rupees. There will be a gap of 20.590 billion rupees after disbursing 34.317 billion as shares for the provinces. The nonobligatory grant for the provinces will be more than 5.406 billion rupees. The revenue through savings has been estimated at about 25.649 billion rupees. Revenue from external sources will be nearly 41.9 billion rupees. Autonomous bodies will make an investment worth more than 6.547 billion from their own resources.

Explaining the objectives of the new budget, the state minister for finance said that the president people's government, while ensuring economic progress of the country, has committed to creating an atmosphere where the socioeconomic benefits do not remain confined to a few individuals, families and groups. Rather, they should reach the people and areas which are lagging behind and inflicted with poverty. He said that we have to ready our people to welcome the 21st century, and to achieve this, we have to establish a society which provides all the basic necessities of life, including clean drinking water, housing, medical and transport facilities, and educational opportunities. The minister of state for finance also reviewed the objectives, targets set for the current fiscal year and achievements in this connection.

Earlier, the opposition staged a walk-out against the speaker's ruling on permitting the minister of state for finance to present the budget. Some opposition members, including the opposition leader, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, said the minister of state for finance should not be permitted to present the budget in view of certain remarks by the high court. Speaker Mairaj Khalid did not agree with the opposition's point of view and said the matter is in court. He said the prime minister, who is the leader of the house, agrees that the minister of state is authorized to present the budget. Mr. Ehsanul Haq Piracha has the right to present the budget in the National Assembly.

Delhi Notes Defense Expenditure for Next Year

BK0806031490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 June 90

[Text] In Pakistan, the new budget presented in the National Assembly yesterday proposed 27.4 percent expenditure toward defense. The minister of state for finance, Mr. Ehsanul Haq Piracha, has presented a deficit budget in which he proposed an expenditure of 6,374 crore rupees on defense during 1990-91, which is a 2.2. percent rise on last year's expenditure.

Earlier, the entire opposition staged a walkout in the National Assembly and boycotted the minister's budget speech.

Bhutto Comments on Budget; Rules Out Martial Law

BK0806040490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Jun 90

[Text] The prime minister has said that the new federal budget is aimed at strengthening the country's economy and controlling ever rising inflation. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad last evening, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said when the People's Party took over the government the inflation rate was 10 percent and was apprehended to go up to 17 percent in June last year. Urgent steps were taken to control inflation at 10 percent and then to reduce it.

The prime minister said the budget was an egalitarian one and taxes were imposed on those sections of the society which could afford to pay. She said while the rich has to pay a surcharge of over eight percent under the new electricity tariff, the poor has to pay about five percent. She said the government could not announce a more popular budget than the present one because of IMF conditions and defense spending. She said the people have to sacrifice to deal with the difficulties faced by the nation.

The prime minister said the government had also made institutional changes to put an end to corruption. She said nobody would be given a bank loan without a matching collateral.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the government is going full speed ahead in setting up sugar mills, textile mills and other industrial units to bring about speedier development in the country. The prime minister said the new taxes were unavoidable, but the opposition wanted to exploit it before the budget announcement. She said the government knew with certainty that even if the budget was not presented by Minister of State for Finance Mr. Ehsanul Haq Piracha, the opposition would have staged a walkout.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said there is no possibility of imposing martial law in the country. She said only those elements who have benefited from it in the past are talking directly or indirectly about martial law. She added that the opposition is trying to incite agitation without caring for the life and property of the people.

The prime minister said there are signs of success in the working relations between the center and the provinces as indicated in the recent meetings of the conciliation committee of the two sides.

Sri Lanka

LTTE, Army Reportedly Clash; 6 Rebels Injured

BK0706130690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the 13-month old ceasefire between the government troops and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in the northern region was broken today with a clash between them at Vavuniya. In the gunfight at Nedunkeni village, one Sri Lankan soldier was killed and 10 others were wounded. At least six of the LTTE rebels were injured when the army returned the fire.

The LTTE has taken virtual control of the northern region since the last Indian soldier of the Peacekeeping Force left the area in March.

Delhi Cites Premadasa on Desire To Improve Ties

BK0606033690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] The president of Sri Lanka, Mr. Premadasa, has expressed his desire to further strengthen friendly relations with India. This was conveyed to the Indian High Commissioner in Colombo, Mr. L.L. Mehrotra, when he called on the president yesterday. Mr. Premadasa requested Mr. Mehrotra to convey to the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, his warmest greetings and his desire for the further strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries.